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King meets Comoro leader



COMORO LEADER: King Khaled during his meeting Sunday with the President of the Comoro Ahmad Abdulla who arrived in Riyadh on a one-week visit. (SPA photo)

RIYADH, March 25 (SPA) — King Khaled Sunday received the president of the Comoro Islands Ahmad Abdulla who arrived earlier in the day on a one week visit, during which he will hold talks on bilateral cooperation and establishing diplomatic relations.

The meeting with the King was headed by Second Deputy Premier and Commander of the National Guard Prince Abdullah, Defense and Aviation Minister

Fahd to undergo medical exams in Spain

RIYADH, March 25 (SPA) — Crown Prince Fahd was admitted to a hospital in Spain for medical examinations, according to a statement issued by the royal cabinet Sunday.

The statement said that Prince Fahd was complaining of pain caused by a back operation he had undergone several years ago.

The crown prince left here Thursday on a European tour.

Gromyko promises aid to Syria

DAMASCUS, March 25 (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko held a second round of talks with Syrian leaders here Sunday and was expected to offer increased support for Arab opposition to the Egypt-Israel peace treaty to be signed Monday in Washington.

But there was speculation too that the Kremlin would use the critically-timed talks to seek a better deal for Iraqi communists in return for stepped-up military support to Syria and its newly-created alliance with Baghdad.

Gromyko arrived here on his surprise visit Saturday and reaffirmed Soviet opposition to the treaty.

His arrival came as a display of Soviet commitment to those Arabs who oppose the peace treaty which has met with mounting Arab hostility since it was concluded earlier this month.

Informal sources said Gromyko was likely to be asked Sunday to translate Moscow's political support into arms supplies to balance U.S. military aid to Israel.

In the past Syria has been angered by apparent Soviet reluctance to step up its arms supplies so as to maintain a strategic balance with Israel now that Egypt has concluded its peace with the Jewish state.

Western diplomats said the Kremlin, faced with the rapidly-evolving Egypt-Israel relations, may now drop this reluctance.

In a related development, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has told Soviet head of state Leonid Brezhnev and U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim that the treaty violated Palestinian rights and U.N. resolutions and (Continued on back page)

Sadat, Begin plan meeting to review 'several problems'

WASHINGTON, March 25 (Agencies) — Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel said Sunday he was holding a last-minute meeting with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat over "several problems" relating to a peace treaty between the two countries.

Begin gave assurances there would be no delay in the scheduled signing of the treaty Monday at the White House. But Moshe Dayan, the Israeli foreign minister, said the treaty should not be signed unless differences over Sinai oil fields are resolved at the surprise Sunday night session.

"Just in case they will not (find a solution), my personal view is that we, Israel, cannot sign the treaty," Dayan said on ABC-TV's "Issues and Answers."

Begin did not register the concern expressed by Dayan. Appearing on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation," the prime minister said he and Sadat had "several problems to talk about."

Specifically, Begin said they would discuss the question of whether there would be additional treaty signings in Jerusalem and Cairo.

"Humanly, there is no obstacle to signing a peace treaty," he said. "Israel is relinquishing Sinai offshore oilfields to Egypt as part of the treaty."

Dayan said the terms of the withdrawal and ongoing supplies to Israel were still up in the air.

Late Saturday, in an effort to iron out what U.S. officials described "a few loose ends," Secretary of State Cyrus Vance flew to New York for a meeting with Begin.

There was no report of the outcome, but Begin said after the 90-minute session: "The only question is do we sign or don't we sign. The answer is, we sign."

In the televised interview on Sunday, Begin said, "I think we solved yesterday almost all the problems. One was left, but today we shall find a solution to it."

Uncertainty about the future will be studiously cast aside in celebrating the signing and President Carter's foreign policy triumph.



INVITATION TO SPEAK: U.S. Vice-President Walter Mondale, (right) invites Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to speak to the press on his arrival in Washington Saturday. (AP Wirephoto)

Kurdish plan announced

Bakhtiar slams Iranian rulers

TEHRAN, March 25 (R) — Former Premier Shapour Bakhtiar, who led the short-lived government overthrown by the forces of Ayatollah Khomeini, has smuggled a message from his hiding place to attack what he called the "new dictatorship" in Iran.

Meanwhile, the government attacked by Bakhtiar attempted to resolve its most pressing crisis by announcing Sunday a seven-point plan to give more self-rule to the country's minority Kurds, who staged a bloody three-day uprising last week in the western town of Sanandaj.

The plan, broadcast on the national radio, promised the Kurds a say in the drawing up of a new Iranian constitution, freedom to continue their own culture, language and dress and participation in decisions concerning Iran as a whole.

The plan was aimed at cooling tempers in the Kurdish areas after the Sanandaj battle between besieged army troops and Kurds, most of whom were demanding autonomy within Iran.

In Tehran, Bakhtiar's tape-recorded message was received by several international news organizations. It was his first public statement since his ouster, and he used it to hit out at the forthcoming referendum on setting up an Islamic republic in Iran.

His message was delivered to the Tehran offices of the news organizations on the same day that Ayatollah Khomeini appealed to Iranians to endorse his plan for an Islamic republic.

In voice that was clearly recognizable despite a "bad" recording, Bakhtiar declared: "They want you to vote for or against an absolutely unknown quantity. I would not vote for such a republic because I consider it against social progress, national pride, economic prosperity and the real fulfillment of human rights."

The message gave no indication of the present whereabouts of Bakhtiar, 63, who went into hiding five weeks ago after a wave of street fighting swept his government from office.

Soon after they came to power, the new revolutionary authorities announced that they had captured Bakhtiar but this was later retracted.

The former premier defected from his government's record, saying his only aim had been to "establish Iranian sovereignty through democratic channels and to prevent bloodshed and anarchy."

Bakhtiar was named premier by the Shah before the ruler left the country in January. But the Bakhtiar government was swept from power after the return of Khomeini to Tehran from 15 years of exile.

With less than a week to go before the referendum in which Iranians will be formally asked to end 2,500 years of monarchical rule, Khomeini warned his supporters, that there might be attempts to rig the ballot.

Meanwhile, the national radio said the plan for the Kurds had been accepted by the region's leaders after four days of negotiations with Tehran religious leader Ayatollah Mahmoud Taleghani and Interior Minister Ahmad Sadr Haj Seyyed Javadi but it did not specify which Kurdish leaders.

There was some doubt here as to whether it would be accepted by all the Kurds, who are split into various factions.

The Sanandaj army garrison has not been under actual siege since peace moves by the government and religious leaders began last Thursday.

But the only roads from the garrison lead into the town, which is still full of barricades and roadblocks manned by thousands of well-armed Kurds enjoying virtually total support from the civilian population.

The radio said that, under the agreement, more than 100 Kurdish prisoners captured by troops around the garrison had been freed.

Yemen ministers meeting to prepare Kuwait summit

KUWAIT, March 25 (Agencies) — Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah will hold talks here Monday with North and South Yemeni foreign ministers to prepare for a Yemeni summit conference on March 28, Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdul-Aziz Hussein said here Sunday.

The Yemeni summit will convene to resolve the dispute between the two countries which had flared up in border fighting last month.

Hussein said the Kuwaiti and Yemeni foreign ministers were expected to leave together for Baghdad on Tuesday to attend an Arab foreign ministers conference. (See separate story.)

The four-day Yemeni summit is aimed at securing peace between the two neighbors following two weeks of border fighting which broke out last month.

Meanwhile, the Arab League opened a weekend conference in Mogadishu, Somalia Saturday with appeals for unity.

Somali President Muhammad Siad Barre said in a speech that big powers were trying to exploit Arab differences. Somali Foreign Minister Abdul Rahman Jama Barre said Arab differences should be examined so that unity can be strengthened.

The Somali remarks were broadcast by the government radio in Mogadishu and monitored in Nairobi.

The radio said Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Morocco were among Arab states represented at the meeting, and (Continued on back page)

To consider reaction to treaty

Hussein due in Baghdad today

BAGHDAD, March 25 (Agencies) — King Hussein of Jordan begins an official visit to Iraq Monday on the eve of an Arab foreign ministers meeting called to discuss the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

The meeting, which begins Tuesday, will discuss possible steps to be taken against Egypt after President Anwar Sadat signs the peace pact with Israel.

Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin are expected to sign the treaty Monday afternoon in Washington.

The Iraq News Agency quoted an announcement by President Ahmad Hassan Bakr as saying Hussein is coming to Baghdad to discuss friendly relations between the two countries.

But the topics to be addressed at Tuesday's foreign ministers meeting here are also certain to be on the agenda for Hussein's visit. He held talks earlier this week with Saudi officials in Riyadh.

In Riyadh, Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal was quoted as calling on Arab leaders to rise above their differences on the eve of his departure for the Baghdad meeting.

Princes Saud, who will lead the Saudi delegation at the meeting — and who is now attending the Arab League's plenary session in Mogadishu — was interviewed by the newspaper "Al-Jazeera."

In the interview he said that foreign and economics ministers from the Arab states would be attending the Baghdad meeting, and said that the Kingdom would continue to work to resolve Arab problems.

Meanwhile, in Beirut, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) announced that Yasser Arafat will attend this week's Arab conference in Baghdad.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the PLO, Wafa said Saturday night.

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OPEC may discuss prices, Yamani says

BAHRAIN, March 25 (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia hinted Sunday that oil prices might be on the agenda for Monday's Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Geneva.

"I do not rule out any possibility," Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said when asked if the conference would turn into a pricing meeting.

The conference had been called last month to discuss oil market instabilities caused by the 10-week shut off in Iranian crude exports.

Yamani made his comments during a surprise appearance at the first Middle East Oil Show here, an exhibition of the latest in oil technology.

The conference, jointly sponsored by Bahrain and the U.S.-based Society of Petroleum Engineers, opened Sunday.

Yamani, who had earlier said that Saudi Arabia would not bring pressure in Geneva to raise crude prices, left for the OPEC meeting after his brief stop in Bahrain.

In an interview with "Okaz" newspaper Saturday, Yamani said that Saudi Arabia believes that pressing for an increase in the price of crude would go against the Kingdom's policy of promoting stability in the world economy.

He warned, however, that the Kingdom does not control the price of oil, which is often caused by world market factors, and said those other factors might make it difficult to keep prices at lower levels.

"This leads us to expect prices to continue rising — not because of any action by OPEC but on account of the prevailing situation," he said.

Yamani said the Iranian shortfall was one indication of what could happen in the world oil market.

He added that the OPEC meeting would discuss not only the Iranian situation but problems faced by developing countries in securing oil "because oil companies prefer to sell oil to the industrialized states."

In Geneva, OPEC members met informally Sunday to discuss issues which might be raised at OPEC's official meeting. But there was little indication of what sort of decision might be made on oil prices and supply.

There were hints, however, that OPEC may be readying a change in the way it prices its oil. The organization has based its prices on a "benchmark" crude, Saudi Arabian Light, a high-quality grade of oil. That price is currently set at \$13.34 a barrel, and is scheduled to rise 3.8 per cent, to \$13.84 a barrel, April 1.

But several OPEC members, (Continued on back page)

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SUPPLEMENT

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Three ministers to visit Taiwan

JEDDAH, March 25 — Three Saudi ministers are to visit the Republic of China in Taiwan in the space of two weeks.

Planning Minister Sheikh Hisham Nazer will arrive in Taipei for talks Monday and will be followed by Health Minister Sheikh Hussein Al-Jazairi and Sheikh Abdul Wahhab Abdul Wasi, minister of pilgrimage and endowments.

During his four-day visit, Sheikh Hisham is expected to meet Prime Minister Yun-suan Sun and other officials to discuss cooperation. Sheikh Hisham and his wife will be guests of Economics Minister K.S. Chang, according to Taiwan's Central News Agency.

Sheikh Hisham will be accompanied by a party including Jamal Habib, director of technical affairs for the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu and Abdullah Salem, the commission's director of administration.

Dr. Jazairi is to leave for Taipei on April 2 for talks with Wang Ching-mao, director general of the Chinese National Health Administration.

The same week, Sheikh Abdul Wahhab will hold talks in Taipei with Interior Minister Chin Chuang-huan on the encouragement of Islamic teaching in Taiwan.

Before arrival in Taiwan, Sheikh Abdul Wahhab will attend the opening of a conference on Muslim youth in Kuala Lumpur Saturday. The conference will discuss challenges posed to Islam by other ideologies.

Saudia to host Houston group

JEDDAH, March 25 (SPA) — The president of the Houston Chamber of Commerce, Louis Welch and a delegation were due to hold talks Sunday with Sheikh Kamel Sindi, director general of Saudia. Welch arrived Saturday on a six-day visit.



BUSINESS MACHINE : A group of visitors to the Jeddah Expo Center, including Jeddah's deputy mayor (center) and the show organizer Muawaq Al-Harithi watch a display at the Business Equipment Show.

Jeddah shows business equipment

JEDDAH, March 25 — Saudi and expatriate businessmen Sunday attended the second day of the Business Equipment Show at the Jeddah Expo Center. The show is reserved for businessmen until March 27. It is open to the public March 28 through March 30.

UAE ratifies treaty

Jordan, Syria contact OIC chief

JEDDAH, March 25 (SPA) — The secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Dr. Amadou-Karim Gaye of Senegal, Sunday received a message from Syrian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam.

The message whose contents were not disclosed was handed to the OIC chief by Syrian Ambassador Abdul Hamid Zarqani.

Dr. Gaye also had an exchange of views on the Jerusalem problem with visiting Jordanian Minister of Endowments Kamel Al-Sharif.

Earlier, the United Arab Emirates handed over the instruments of ratification of the general economic and technical cooperation agreements of OIC member

states.

UAE Ambassador Ahmed Muhammad Bu Rahimah delivered the documents to Dr. Gaye.

The ambassador also handed the secretary general a check for \$33,000 as the UAE's contribution to the OIC's 1978-79 budget and checks for \$15,000 and \$24,000 as the 11% levy for Islamic centers in Ankara and Dacca.

The OIC is the secretariat of the annual conference of foreign ministers of Muslim countries. The Emirates' move, Dr. Gaye said, would give a spur to the OIC's activities in promoting development in member states.

The next foreign ministers' conference, the tenth, will be held in Rabat at the beginning of May.

Ministry bans tractor, pump

RIYADH, March 25 (SPA) — The import of Yugoslavia AMT tractors and Chinese Ding Feng-chang water pumps has been banned because of their technical defects. An Agriculture Ministry order has been conveyed to customs officials and importers of agricultural machinery.

Arab chambers okay Dubai firm

RIYADH, March 25 (SPA) — The 48th session of the council of the Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture concluded here Sunday after approving the establishment of the Arabian Public Investment Company in Dubai with a capital of 700 million dirhams. The session was chaired by Sheikh Ismail Abu Daoud, president of the union and of the council of Saudi chambers.

Muslim Jurisprudence Congress

Mecca forum mulls test-tube birth, banks

By Farouk Lugman

JEDDAH, March 25 — Twenty leading jurists from Muslim countries are meeting in Mecca this week to discuss the legal status of issues ranging from test-tube birth to banking.

The meeting will be the first to offer practical alternatives to practices that may be illegal or repugnant to Islam.

Saad Abu Gaib, director of the Congress of Muslim Jurisprudence which opened its second session Saturday, said the jurists would discuss contemporary problems facing Muslims round the world.

But the meeting would look at the issues "from a practical point of view", since different Muslim countries have different problems and different attitudes to them, he said. If the jurists find a certain practice unacceptable, the congress will submit "practical alternatives" to the Muslim World League and through it to Muslim governments, he said.

The congress was opened Saturday by Sheikh Muhammad Ali Al-Harakan, president of the league. It will sit for 12 days.

The question of banking and usury will be discussed from an Islamic point of view, and alternatives to charging interest will be discussed. The jurists also have a report on test-tube babies, which will be studied thoroughly before judgment is passed.

The congress Saturday discussed insurance and resolved that Islam approves cooperative insurance, whereby merchants' risk is shared. This is preferable to com-

mercial insurance, Abu Gaib said.

The congress will also view the question of Muslims taking the nationality of non-Muslim states and what should be done about it. The jurists will discuss the question from both Islamic and

national standpoints, he said.

Other subjects include punishments for adultery and theft and their application in Muslim countries, freemasonry, communism and the heresies of Bah-

"The subject of the congress is to consolidate Islamic unity,"

Abu Gaib said. The congress plans to publish a magazine in Arabic and English as a forum for Muslim views on these issues.

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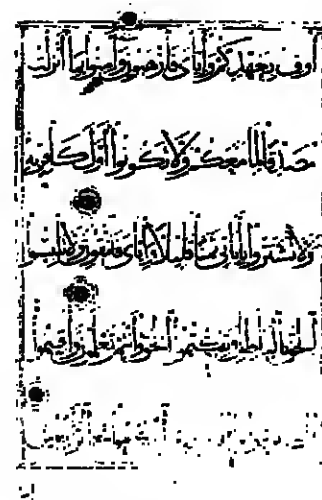
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Left: from a Qur'an written with gold. Middle: book with gold. Right: rug from the 18th century.

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Pakistan lodges 'strong protest' on Afghan attack

ISLAMABAD, March 25 (AP) — Pakistan's government has strongly protested to Afghanistan over the shelling of Pakistan territory, a foreign office spokesman said Sunday.

The spokesman said the Afghan military shelled a refugee camp 3,000 to 4,000 meters inside Pakistan territory in the Zarkai area of the Kurram Agency in northern Pakistan on March 13.

Afghan troops lobbed 60 shells at the refugee camp, but the camp was not hit, he said.

Islamic dissidents inside Afghanistan are fighting the pro-Soviet government of President Nur Muhammad Taraki.

Pakistani Foreign Secretary S. Shahjiz told a news conference the Afghan ambassador was

summoned to the foreign office some days ago and "a strong protest was lodged over the shelling incident."

He said the Afghan ambassador was told the government of Pakistan "views with deep concern the violation of its territory and hopes that such incidents will not recur."

The ambassador was informed that "in keeping with its policy of friendship and good neighborliness toward Afghanistan, the government of Pakistan has exercised restraint and decided against any retaliatory action on this occasion."

The Afghan ambassador also was told Pakistan expects Afghanistan "to reciprocate its sincere desire for friendly relations on the basis of respect for the principles of strict non-interference in each other's internal affairs and the inviolability of international frontiers, and that the government of Afghanistan cannot absolve itself from responsibility for the consequences of any violation or any deviation on its part from these principles," Shahjiz said.

Sunday, Pakistan's government asked Afghan refugees to "appreciate the status of their stay in this country and refrain from any activity which may put strains on the hospitality being offered to them."

An official statement said the asylum granted to the refugees on "purely humanitarian grounds" cannot be stretched to cover actions contrary to Pakistani law or tending to affect its relations with neighboring countries.

There are 35,000 refugees in Pakistan who left Afghanistan following the April 1978 takeover of the government by Taraki.

Relatives and supporters of these refugees have formed Islamic dissident groups in Afghanistan and are fighting the Taraki troops.

It was understood the Afghan government has protested to the Pakistan government that the refugees in Pakistan are using this country as a propaganda base against the government of Afghanistan.

Pakistan plans to curb wave of emigrant workers

ISLAMABAD, March 25 (R) — Pakistan Sunday published plans to control a flood of workers trying to emigrate in search of higher wages.

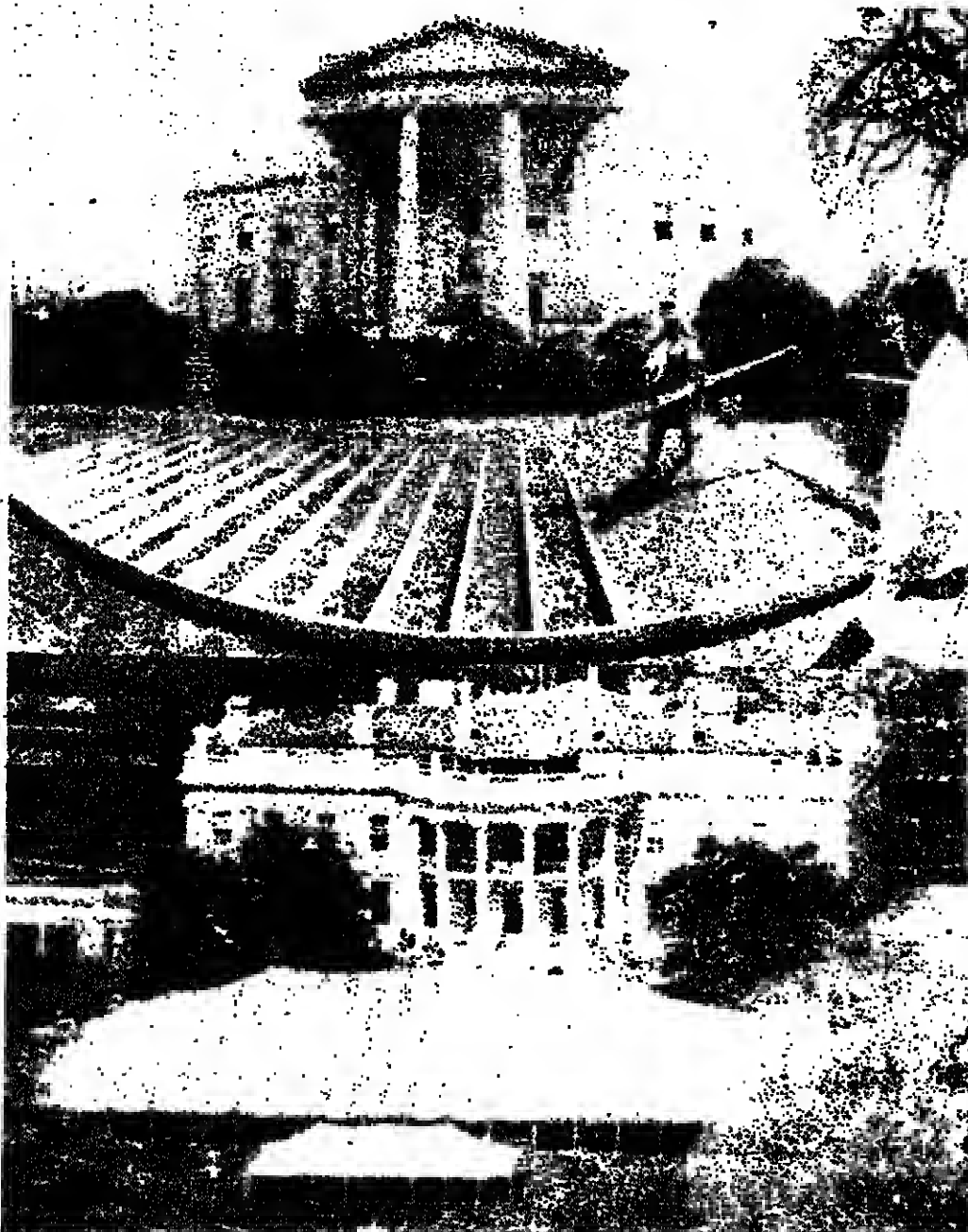
The plans follow pressure from several countries which have returned hundreds of Pakistanis lured into selling their possessions and emigrating on the promise of high wages.

Several countries, especially in the nearby Gulf, look to Pakistan to make up their shortage of manpower and issue licenses to immigrants.

But lure of high wages has resulted in bogus recruiting agents persuading often illiterate peasants to emigrate without valid papers and on payment of considerable fees.

A presidential ordinance makes illegal for a would-be emigrant to leave without first having a work permit and travel documents and the government can stop the emigration of certain classes of workers or ban emigration to specified countries.

The rules empower officials to search and detain vessels suspected of smuggling emigrants.



THE SCENE: A platform for Monday's signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is being built on the North Lawn of the White House (above) and on the South Lawn (below) the tent is up for the state dinner. (AP photos)

Carter seeks money for peace dinner

WASHINGTON, March 25 (R) — Friends of the Carter administration are asking major U.S. corporations to help defray the cost of a state dinner to celebrate the signing of an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, the White House has announced.

Mary Hoyt, Mrs. Rosalynn Carter's press secretary, said Saturday private companies have been asked to help with the expenses of

the dinner to be held on Monday in honor of President Anwar Sadat and Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

She denied, however, a report that the White House had put a \$1,000-a-plate price tag in exchange for invitations to the dinner.

"Friends of the administration are making calls to private company officials asking for help to

defray the costs of the dinner because we are expecting 1,300 people and there is no way the White House can accommodate that many," Mrs. Hoyt said.

"Those who wish to celebrate peace are being asked to contribute," she said.

The contributions are tax deductible and will go to the National Park Service, which is under the jurisdiction of the Interior Department, she said.

'Al Ahram' reports

Sinai evacuation said imminent

CAIRO, March 25 (R) — The semi-official newspaper "Al-Ahram" says Israel was to start pulling military equipment out of the Sinai peninsula Sunday as a prelude to complete evacuation under the terms of its peace treaty with Egypt.

With the treaty due to be signed Monday in Washington, the newspaper said Sunday Israeli forces would begin withdrawing from the first sector of the Sinai designed for evacuation.

The treaty calls for an interim Israeli withdrawal covering most of the peninsula to be carried out within nine months, and full withdrawal to be completed in two to three years.

"Al-Ahram" said the first part of the withdrawal would cover an area extending along a line from El-Arish on the Mediterranean to Ras Muhammad on the Red Sea.

Meanwhile President Jimmy Carter has been assured that members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, excluding France, support the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, U.S. officials said Saturday.

The officials, declining to be identified publicly, said this message was given to Carter by Joseph Luns, NATO's secretary general.

Luns sent Carter a letter following a visit to the alliance's Brussels headquarters Wednesday by Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the officials said.

According to reports reaching

Washington, representatives at a meeting of officials from Britain, West Germany, Canada, Italy and Norway warmly supported Carter's efforts, France was not mentioned.

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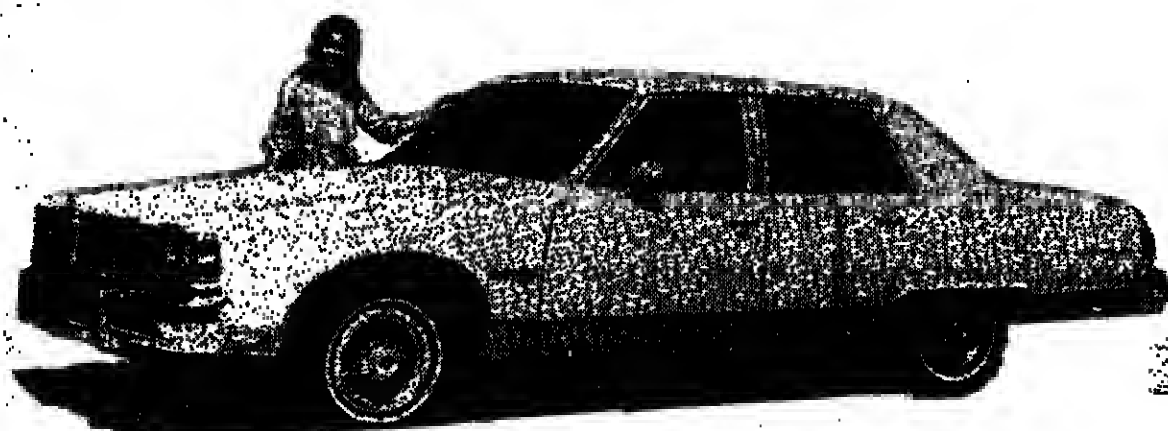
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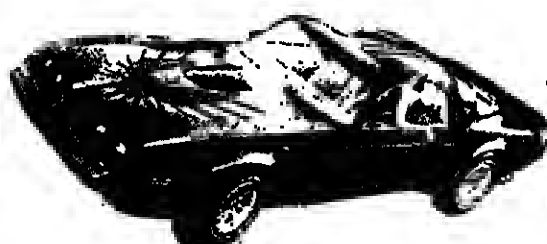


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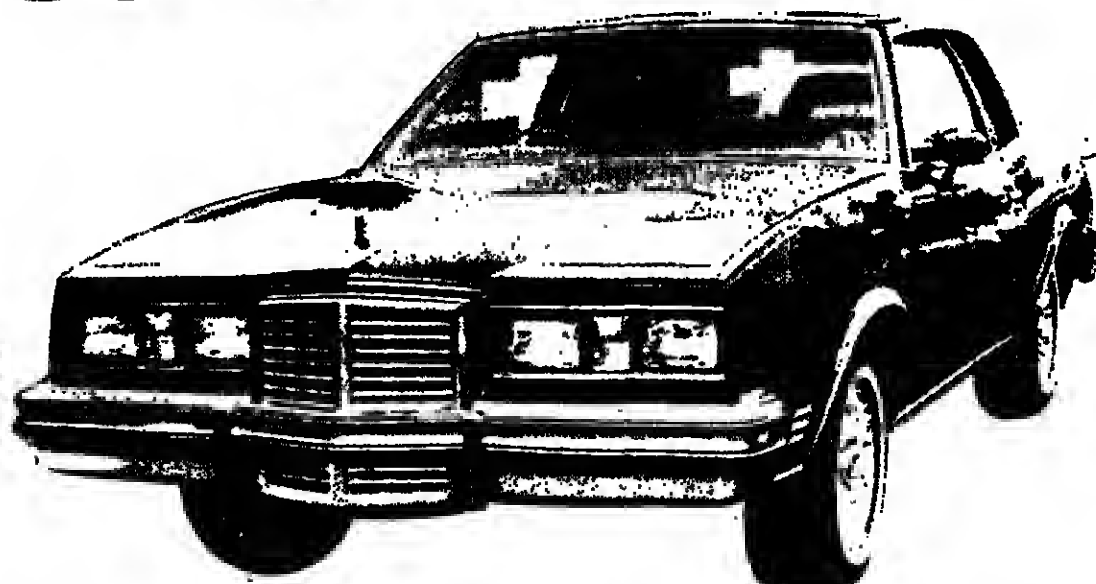


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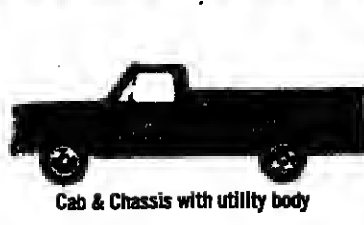
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Accused of renewed shelling

China seizes new areas, Vietnam says

BANGKOK, March 25 (Agencies) — Vietnam accused China Sunday of launching fresh artillery attacks on Vietnamese territory and occupying 12 new positions, some well inside Vietnam.

A Vietnam News Agency broadcast, quoting an article in the Communist Party newspaper "Nhan Dan", said "Chinese troops have in recent days occupied many more areas of Vietnamese territory."

"Now they are holding more than 30 positions and areas as against an earlier total of 18, some of these lying well inside Vietnam," the broadcast monitored in Bangkok said.

The article repeated Vietnamese charges that China continues to concentrate troops on the Chinese side of the border and they are building fortifications along the border. There were no details on the positions of the troops or how far inside Vietnam

they allegedly were positioned. The broadcast said artillery attacks were made against the Mong Cai porcelain enterprise in Vietnam's coastal Quang Ninh province.

In the editorial entitled "Peking talks about negotiations to cover up war preparations," "Nhan Dan" said there will be no negotiations unless all Chinese troops are withdrawn.

The article said China must "bear full responsibility" if peace negotiations cannot start in Hanoi on Thursday.

Vietnam's Foreign Ministry called last Wednesday for negotiations to begin in Hanoi this Thursday after China withdraws all forces behind the historical border between the two countries.

Charging that China is not preparing for negotiations, the editorial said, "What Peking is planning is not only to oppose Vietnam but also to increase its interference in

Kampuchea's (Cambodia's) internal affairs and create tension in the whole of Southeast Asia."

In Moscow, the Communist Party newspaper "Pravda" charged Sunday that China is stepping up "provocative actions" against Laos and massing troops, tanks and artillery along the Laotian border.

"China's hostile actions against a small country are ominously similar to the situation on the Chinese-Vietnamese border before Peking launched a military intervention against Socialist Vietnam," warned "Pravda".

The article accused the Peking leadership of staging "military exercises" in districts adjoining

Laos and bringing "armed groups of saboteurs" into northern provinces of Laos.

In one case, the newspaper said that Chinese armed units invaded Laotian territory close to the populated towns of Boteng and Muong in Luangnamtha province.

In a separate development, "The New York Times" said Sunday that between 10,000 and 15,000 civilian and military officials of former Laotian Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma's government have been detained since the Communist takeover in 1975.

The paper said the figures were obtained in an interview with Souvanna Phouma in Vientiane, Laos capital.

SALT may be strangled in Senate, 'Pravda' says

MOSCOW, March 25 (AP) — The Communist Party newspaper "Pravda" said Sunday that U.S. enemies of a new strategic arms limitation agreement are planning to "choke the newborn baby in its cradle" by blocking Senate ratification.

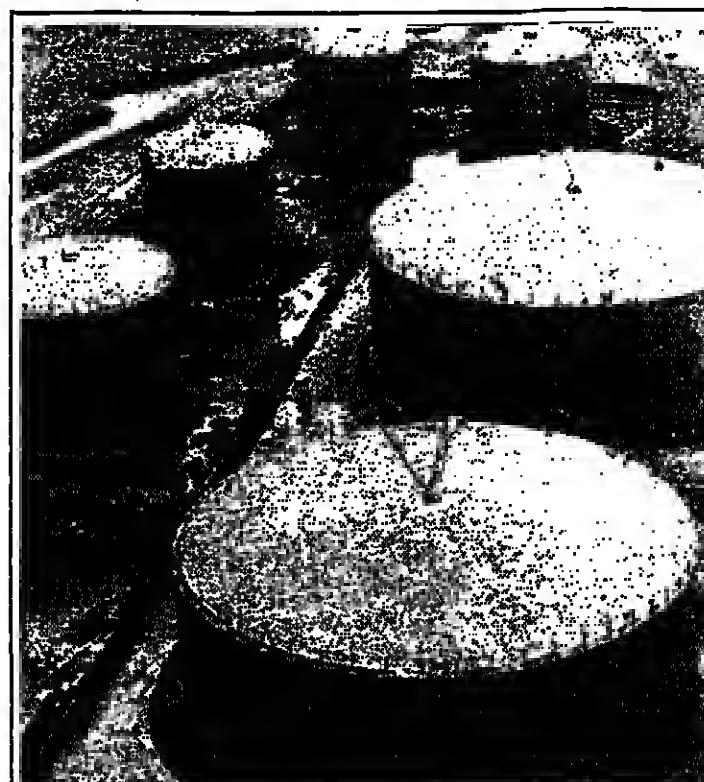
Commentator Nikolai Kurdyumov, in a lengthy analysis from Washington on the American political and economic situation, also indirectly warned U.S. politicians against linking the proposed SALT treaty with other issues.

"There are some who would like to make use of blackmail by 'tying' the ratification with other questions that have nothing to do with SALT, in order to obtain political concessions from the Soviet Union," he wrote.

Earlier this month, President Leonid Brezhnev said work on a new treaty "is now close to completion" after six years, and that he hopes to sign an agreement during a meeting soon with President Jimmy Carter.

"Pravda's" commentary noted that Carter "in recent weeks has spoken many times about the importance of the SALT agreement for the United States," but went on to warn:

"One should not close one's eyes to the unceasing subversive activity of the enemies of the new agreement, who are intending to choke the newborn baby in its cradle by blocking ratification of the treaty in the Senate."



IRA BOMB: This fuel tank on Canvey Island, Essex, was bombed by the IRA in January, but disaster was averted simply by the 130,000 gallons of aviation fuel in it drowning the fire rather than catching light itself. With IRA claims of murdering the British ambassador to The Hague this week, further violence threatens mainland Britain.

Police reject links between dead envoy and Belgian murder

THE HAGUE, March 25 (R) — Dutch police have officially rejected the idea that the murder of a Belgian banker was linked with Thursday's killing of Britain's Ambassador to Holland, Sir Richard Sykes.

Ballistics tests on the bullets used in the attacks showed they were of widely-differing calibres, police said Saturday.

The Dutch evening paper "Het Vrije Volk" however, said Saturday that one of its reporters had been told by Belgian police that the two murders were connected.

Speculation that the killings were linked was sparked by a warning earlier this week from the Irish Republican Army (IRA) that it intended to hit British targets in continental Europe to put more pressure on Britain to end its rule of Northern Ireland.

Banker Andre Michaux, 46, murdered in Brussels nine hours after Sir Richard was killed here,

lived across a street in the suburb of Ukkel from Britain's deputy ambassador to NATO, Pat Holmer, and there was suspicion he might have been the target. "Het Vrije Volk" quoted Belgian police officer on th Michaux case as saying, "We have found a definite trail leading to Ireland."

Later, in Brussels, a police spokesman said the car used by Michaux's killers carried a trans number plate issued by Belgian authorities to a man giving addresses in Brussels and Dublin.

Laterver said Hague police had no information to suggest the two affairs were connected. Two Dutch policemen returned from Brussels Friday night after carrying out an investigation.

Dutch news media have received two anonymous call pinning responsibility for Sir Richard's assassination on th IRA.

On third anniversary of coup

Argentina making progress, junta claims

BUENOS AIRES, March 25 (AP) — Argentina's military government has marked the third anniversary of the coup that brought it to power by saying the country has undergone "a deep, positive transformation."

The March 24, 1976 coup which overthrew the chaotic and corrupt government of President Isabel Peron was celebrated with a simple ceremony of a military chapel

in downtown Buenos Aires.

Attending were the uniformed leaders of the government, President Jorge Videla, a retired army general, and the commanders of the Army, Navy and Air Force who make the three-man junta which shares leadership with Videla.

The process of national reorganization "has finished three hard and difficult years," a communique read during the 15-minute ceremony said.

"The situation has undergone a deep, positive transformation, but much still remains to be done at a time in which anxiety and impatience are factors which complicate the general panorama."

The communique appealed for continued public support, saying that "the armed forces alone cannot solve all the problems facing the country."

The government has eliminated the fever of leftwing terrorism that prevailed from 1970-1976 but has been unable to identify or halt political violence from the right that has resulted in the kidnapping, disappearance or death of at

least 3,000 persons since the tanks rolled in Buenos Aires on a Tuesday night three years ago.

Economic problems, and a 160 per cent inflation last year, continue.

Military leaders are under increasing pressure from labor

Space shuttle arrives at last

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. March 25 (AP) — The American space shuttle Columbia has arrived at its new home at the Kennedy Space Center, completing its two-week cross-country journey.

Shuttled to the top of a 747 jet, the shuttle completed last leg of its journey from California to Florida Saturday under bright, sunny skies and a stiff breeze only a few minutes behind schedule.

Among the 3,000 people waiting off the 15,000-foot runway built for this and future landings were astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen, scheduled to ride the shuttle on its maiden flight in November.

unions, the backbone of the Peronist movement, and political parties to raise wages, which average slightly more than \$2 per month, a drop in some cases, 50 per cent in buying power since the coup.

Politicians and labor leaders are pressing for a relaxation of the ban on their activities, but while members of the administration have indicated they favor a return to representative government, they have been no indication how this would be carried out.

The communique made no mention of Mrs. Peron, who a vice-president assumed the presidency on the death of her husband, President Juan Domingo Peron. Mrs. Peron, 48, was arrested on the night of the coup and later charged with fraudulent use of state funds. After long detention at a remote resort, she is now under house arrest at an estate belonging to her late husband on the outskirts of Buenos Aires. The courts continue to study the charges against her.

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Behind Darling, Hilditch

Australia batsmen recover lost form

PERTH, Australia, March 25 (R) — Australia's demoralized batsmen found their batting form Sunday and moved into a powerful position against Pakistan in the second Test.

By the close of the second day, Australia was 180 for three in reply to Pakistan's 277 and looked well placed to take the lead Monday.

The pitch is playing easily and here appears every prospect of flowing freely Monday.

The Australians were given a splendid start by openers Rick Darling, who made 75, and Andrew Hilditch, 41. They put on 150 for the first wicket and then all-rounder Allan Border hit a right unbeaten 41.

Earlier, Javed Miandad held the batsmen in check, scoring 129 not out before he ran out a partner.

French protest Transvaal tour

PARIS, March 25, (R) — The French anti-apartheid movement Saturday it was petitioning local authorities to ban matches to be played in France by the regional rugby union touring next month.

The movement claims the team will be selected along racial lines, despite the presence of two black players in the squad.

He came in with the total two for 27 and held out for a marathon 388 minutes. His score included 15 boundaries.

After Australia had mopped up the final three Pakistan wickets this morning, Hilditch and Darling batted splendidly to blunt the Pakistan opening attack of Sarfraz Nawaz and Imran Khan.

Forty-five runs came from the first seven overs and Hilditch and Darling went on to take the total to 96, the highest opening stand in a Test match by any team in Australia this summer, before Hilditch was out for 41.

Hilditch batted with great assurance for 147 minutes before he was tempted by Imran to play a hook shot.

He mistimed the shot, got a top edge, and Zahoor Abbas, running back from leg slip, held the catch.

Border and Darling added 47 runs for the second wicket before Darling was out for a fine 75, including eight fours, in 205 minutes.

Darling tried to drive medium pacer Mudassar Nazar, played over the ball and was trapped leg before wicket. But otherwise, the attack has lacked venom.

Imran's one wicket from 12 overs has cost 59 runs, and Sarfraz, the destroyer in the Melbourne Test, bowled 16 overs, unchanged to finish with none for 60.

Australia, crushed 5-1 by England in the recent Ashes series, lost the first Test of this two-match series.



SMILING: Earnie Shavers, left, with his first-round victim Ken Norton at the weigh-in for Friday night's fight in Las Vegas. Shavers will face WBC champion Larry Holmes in New Jersey, Sept. 14. Holmes beats American Mike Weaver in New York in the early summer, promoter Don King said Saturday.

35 mph winds

Wadkins holds on in golf horror

JACKSONVILLE, Florida, March 25 (AP) — On a windswept course where Jack Nicklaus shot 82, weary Lanny Wadkins retained a 3-stroke lead with a

struggling, four-over-par 76 Saturday in the third round of the \$440,000 Tournament Players Championship.

The howling, shifting, fickle winds that gusted to 35 miles per hour and a course that Nicklaus called as awkward, combined to turn into a golfing horror the event that is billed as the annual championship of the touring pros.

"It was a mockery," Nicklaus shook his head.

"No, but it was the same for everybody," said the man generally regarded as the best player the game has produced. "I did not have the ability to handle the conditions."

"I only put the ball on the putting surface in regulation four times. And I hit the ball fairly well."

"It was murder," said Jack Renner, the skinny youngster who was the only man in the field able to break par 72 on the 7,083 yards of marshland, lakes and piny woods that make up the Sawgrass Links.

"I just tried to survive," Renner said after his birdie-par, birdie finish had produced a 71.

Wadkins had made only one bogey through the first two rounds, but was over par on seven

holes Saturday. Still, he retained the same advantage — three strokes — that he'd had at the start of the day's play. He had a 54-hole total of 211, five shots under par. Lee Trevino birdied the last hole to tie the second at 214 with Renner. George Burns and Bill Kratzert.

"I just wanted to get out of there without getting hurt," Burns said. And in a calmer LPGA event, Donna Nease fired a three-under-par 68 Saturday to maintain her two-shot lead after three rounds of the \$100,000 Sahara National Pro-Am. in Las Vegas. Charging into second place was 1978 sensation Nancy Lopez, who is shooting for her second straight victory.

Austin advances in New York, as Evert plummets

NEW YORK, March 25 (AP) — Tracy Austin beat Dianne Fromholtz, 7-5, 6-2, Saturday in the semifinals of the \$275,000 championship of the women's winter tennis tour.

She advanced to Sunday's final against top-seeded Martina Navratilova, who took just 50 minutes to beat England's Sue Barker, 6-1, 6-3.

The 16-year-old Austin, who beat Wendy Turnbull in the first round and thrashed Chris Evert in the second, came from 2-5 down in the first set against Fromholtz to win that set and the first two games of the second.

But as this major championship goes on, Evert is hitting a new low. She lost Friday night to Fromholtz.

UCLA captures swimming title

CLEVELAND, Ohio, March 25 (AP) — Peter Rocca, Graham Smith and Parr Arvidsson won individual titles to power a charged-up University of California team to victory in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Swimming and Diving Championships at Cleveland State University Saturday night.

Smith, winning his third event of the three-day competition, captured the 200-yard breaststroke in a time of 2:00.37. Arvidsson won the 200-yard butterfly in 1:45.53 for his second individual title, and Rocca successfully defended his 200-yard backstroke title in a time of 1:46.4.

UCLA's Brian Goodell also won three individual titles, capturing the 1,650-yard freestyle in American record time of 14:54.13.

To extend lead to 5

Dalglish hits 50th for Liverpool

LONDON, March 25 (R) — Kenny Dalglish, the Scots international with a golden goal-scoring flair, blasted home his 19th goal of the season and 50th for his side Saturday to send Liverpool another giant step nearer the English First Division championship.

Liverpool, which meets Manchester United in the semifinals of the Football Association Cup next

Saturday, defeated Ipswich 2-0, to extend their lead to five points. Dalglish's 50th came in his 101st match since joining the club in 1977. Liverpool's second came from former Ipswich striker David Johnson.

Second-placed Everton battled to a 1-1 draw at Derby, but it was a point they hardly afford to drop with Liverpool in such all-

conquering form. West Bromwich Albion kept alive its slim hopes of catching Liverpool with a scrambled 2-1 home victory over struggling Queens Park Rangers, leaving Albion in third place.

Manchester United warmed up for next week's vital Cup clash against mighty Liverpool by crushing Leeds, 4-1. Leeds, unbeaten in 16 games, crumbled before the lethal finishing of 18-year-old Andy Ritchie who cracked home three goals.

Ritchie was standing in for the injured Scots international and former Leeds striker Joe Jordan, but on this performance he must stand a great chance of a place in United's Cup team. Wolverhampton Wanderers, who meet London's Arsenal in next Saturday's other Cup semifinal, boosted morale with a 2-1 away triumph over Chelsea.

It was Chelsea's ninth home defeat of the season and virtually condemned it to Division Two, along with Birmingham City which lost, 2-1, at Middlesbrough. Wolverhampton's win helped ease its own relegation fears.

British soccer results

LONDON, M. (AP) — Results of Saturday's British soccer games:

English League Division One

Arsenal	1	Man. C.	1
Villa	2	Spurs	3
Robson	2	Shamilton	1
Chelsea	1	Wolves	2
Derby	0	Everton	0
Liverpool	2	Ipswich	0
Man. Utd.	4	Leeds	1
Middlesbrough	2	Bham	1
Norwich	3	Bristol C.	0
Forest	3	Coventry	0
WBA	2	QPR	1

Division Two

Blackburn	0	Preston	1
Bristol R.	0	Oldham	1
Burnley	2	Charlton	1
Cambridge	0	Brighton	0
Cardiff	1	Stoke	3
Luton	0	Palace	0
Millwall	0	Notts Co.	1
Sunderland	1	Orient	1
West Ham	5	Newcastle	0
Wrexham	1	Fulham	1

Scottish League Premier Division

Northern	3	Dundee Utd.	1
St. Mirren	2	Hibernian	1

Division One

Arbroath	4	Ayr	1
Kilmarnock	2	Clyde	1
Cydebank	4	Airdrie	1
Dundee	2	Dornbarton	0
Hamilton	1	Queen	1
Montrose	3	Stirling A.	1
Albion	1	Queens Park	1
E. Fife	1	Bachin	1
Meadowbank	1	St. Mirren	2

Division One standings

LONDON, March 25 (AP) — Standings in the English First Division:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Liverpool	30	21	6	3	63	11	48
Everton	32	15	13	4	43	27	43
West Bromwich	27	17	6	4	55	26	40
Arsenal	31	15	9	7	48	28	39
Leeds	31	14	10	7	55	39	38
Forest	27	12	13	2	34	18	37
Manchester Utd.	29	13	7	9	47	48	33
Coventry	29	13	7	9	47	45	33
Norwich	32	7	18	7	44	45	32
Tottenham	30	11	10	9	34	45	32
Villa	28	10	11	7	37	27	31
Ipswich	31	12	6	13	39	38	30
Southampton	29	18	9	10	34	34	29
Bristol City	33	10	9	14	36	43	29
Manchester City	29	8	11	10	41	37	27
Middlesbrough	31	10	7	14	44	42	27
Derby	31	9	7	15	33	51	25
Bolton	29	8	7	14	36	52	23
Wolverhampton	30	9	4	17	28	52	22
Queens Park	32	5	10	17	31	51	20
Rangers	31	4	7	20	31	64	15
Chelsea	31	4	5	21	26	47	13
Birmingham	30	4	5	21	26	47	13

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U.S. vs. Israel

By Oswald Johnston

WASHINGTON —

With a treaty signing between Egypt and Israel virtually assured, the Carter administration is engaged in intense negotiations to limit some of the security commitments Israel is demanding as an adjunct to the treaty.

The negotiations cover two separate U.S.-Israeli memoranda of agreement, one relating to military and political assurances and the other to an American commitment to assure Israel's oil supply for 15 years after the treaty goes into effect.

Like other loose ends of the treaty, the U.S.-Israeli documents involve issues that lie completely outside the scope of the accords hammered out at Camp David last September, which provided the basic framework for virtually all of the treaty-proper.

Despite President Carter's public declarations to the Israeli Knesset recently that the United States would "place our strength at Israel's side" to "ensure Israel's security and well-being," officials now are concerned that such commitments will run into trouble in Congress for promising too much.

The situation Carter and his advisers wish to avoid is a repeat of the outcry that occurred in 1975, after then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's Sinai withdrawal agreement was revealed to contain a series of far-reaching secret U.S. commitments to Israel. Critics at the time said these were tantamount to a defense treaty.

"We are not talking about a treaty," officials insist this time. Not only will the two documents be made public, but the promise they contain will be strictly limited to the text of the Egypt-Israel treaty — provided administration negotiators can have their way.

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan discussed the two memoranda at length with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in Jerusalem, and since then has negotiated with Samuel Lewis, the U.S. Ambassador in Tel Aviv.

It is understood there are still two separate drafts of the two documents, one American, one Israeli, and that considerable gaps between the two versions still remain.

Also still under direct negotiation, between Egyptian and Israeli officials, is a vexing and potentially troublesome issue of when Israel will turn over to Egypt the Alma oil field in the Gulf of Suez, and, still more important, when Israel will stop pumping its oil.

The Egyptians want the pumping to stop as soon as the treaty is signed. The Israelis want to take full advantage of every last minute of their occupation of that resource, which they want to give up nine months from the treaty signing date. The Egyptians want the field back in their hands in six months.

The Israeli cabinet recently specified in its vote in support of the last issues to be debated that the field should be held nine months. So that question has been deadlocked in talks between Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and his Egyptian counterpart, Kamel Hassan Ali.

Also unresolved is an Egyptian request for certain Israeli goodwill gestures toward the Palestinians of the occupied territories, whose political status is to be negotiated in follow-up talks set to start a month after the treaty signing.

These gestures, according to Egyptian and U.S. sources cover: Release of political prisoners, easing of restrictions on political activity in the territories and easing travel restrictions.

U.S. officials believe Begin has expressed "a generally positive attitude" on this request but made no formal promises. The Egyptians have hinted they want something in writing. The Israelis, for the record, say they made no promises of any kind on this subject.

The U.S.-Israeli memoranda of understanding are understood to contain pledges of U.S. action if the United Nations fails to carry out oversight functions during the phased Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai specified in the treaty.

If the Egyptians violate clauses of the treaty in such a way as to endanger Israel's security — for instance, by violating the demilitarized and semi-militarized zones set forth in the treaty — it is understood that the United States is committed to intervene.

The secret memorandum of 1975 that got Kissinger in trouble with Congress explained that commitment in these words: "consult with Israel as to the significance of the violation and possible remedial action by the United States government."

It is understood that the Carter administration is resisting Israeli pressure to include a parallel clause committing the United States to "consult" in event of a threat from a "world power," namely, the Soviet Union.

"In view of the longstanding United States commitment to the survival and security of Israel," the 1975 agreement said, "the U.S. government will view with particular gravity threats to Israel's security or sovereignty by a world power.... The U.S. government will in event of such threat consult promptly with the government of Israel with respect to what support, diplomatic or otherwise, or assistance it can lend to Israel in accordance with its constitutional practices."

Congressional critics noted at the time that this formula resembles the operative clause in several defense agreements that both the United States and the Soviet Union have with allies around the world.

U.S. officials take the position that assurances of this sort have no place in an agreement related expressly to a bilateral peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, particularly one which will be made public.

Similarly out of place, officials feel, would be any explicit U.S. guarantee in event of a war between Israel and Syria or Jordan, countries with which the United States still hopes to maintain friendly relations.

It is understood, however, that the Carter administration considers most of the commitments undertaken in the 1975 agreement to be still valid and operative. The "world power" clause may be presumed to be among these.

Still very much alive, in the administration view, is a 1975 commitment that the United States will not deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization so long as it rejects U.N. resolutions specifying Israel-Arab peace negotiation and refuses to recognize Israel. (LAT)



Europeans doubt durability of peace

By John Palmer

BRUSSELS —

There is apprehension among America's European allies that the proposed treaty between Egypt and Israel may make it more difficult, not easier, to achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East.

Behind the striking absence of public declarations of support by the Common Market countries for the outcome of President Carter's recent Middle East mission are fears that it may result in a wide gulf between the West and key moderate Arab states.

Although President Carter is universally commended for his devotion to the cause of a settlement between Egypt and Israel, some Common Market countries and other European member states in NATO privately question his tactics. Some believe that it would have been better to delay a bilateral agreement between Cairo and Tel Aviv in a further effort to involve Jordan, Syria and the Palestinians in the negotiations.

Before the announcement of President Carter's visit to the Middle East, there had been discussions between the British and West German governments on

whether the time was right to bring the Palestine Liberation Organization into the negotiating process. And there is growing support among the nine EEC countries for some greater recognition of the PLO in the future.

There are also reports of recent unofficial contacts between the French government and the PLO to see whether, in return for greater official recognition by the European community, the PLO would be willing to spell out in more specific terms than hitherto its recognition of Israel.

In spite of the imminent signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, the Common Market will have to decide its stand on the wider issue of Middle East peace before the next ministerial meeting of the Euro-Arab dialogue to be held in Paris in June.

In order not to cause any embarrassment or difficulty for President Carter during the latter stages of his negotiating shuttle between Egypt and Israel, it was agreed that the Paris EEC summit this month should issue no new declaration on the Middle East.

But, in an equally striking move, the Nine issued no formal endorsement of Carter's strategy

and the welcome for the agreement between Egypt and Israel has remained muted ever since.

Apart from the unsettling impact of the proposed treaty on both Jordan and Saudi Arabia, some European diplomats are also wary about U.S. moves to involve Western Europe in indirectly underwriting the Egypt-Israel agreement. There is a marked lack of enthusiasm in European capitals for suggestions in the U.S. that the EEC should contribute to a Marshall-aid type of financial support for both Egypt and Israel after the signing of a peace treaty. The more sceptical European diplomats are convinced that they have been justified by the reaction in both Saudi Arabia and Jordan by Zbigniew Brzezinski's recent attempts to explain the peace treaty. And the Europeans are particularly sensitive to any U.S. move which might upset the Saudis at a time when the EEC is worried about the future supply and cost of oil.

In spite of these hesitations the Nine will think carefully about taking any step which might call into question the traditionally close liaison on foreign policy between Washington and European community. But in both

the French and West German foreign ministries, in particular, there are those who believe that an independent European line on the Middle East crisis is long overdue.

There is also a more general difference of interpretation with the U.S. on recent trends in the Middle East. Many European diplomats believe that the Baghdad conference of Arab states opposed to the Camp David agreement showed an evolution of Iraq away from its close alliance with the Soviet Union. And European diplomats are more struck with the negotiating flexibility of the Syrian government and are more willing to try to "bring in the PLO from the cold" than some of their U.S. counterparts.

In spite of the imminent signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, doubts persist in some European capitals. To a greater extent than in the U.S., the continuing differences of interpretation over the future status of Jerusalem and the agreement for West Bank self-rule are seen in Europe as potentially lethal obstacles to a permanent settlement even between those two countries. — (G)

U.S.-PLO TALKS

As Yasser Arafat noted late on Saturday, President Carter's offer for direct U.S. negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization does not contain anything essentially "new" in the American position on this issue. Carter is asking the PLO to recognize U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, and in turn to recognize the state of Israel.

Arafat did not, however, reject Carter's public offer, and it is worth considering for a moment what possible advantages there may be in it.

Resolution 242 is accepted by most of the Arab states as a basis for peace in the Middle East. In the forthcoming signing of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, and in the Camp David accords signed last September, Israel accepted the resolution "in all its parts." The Israelis did not, however, retreat from their absurd contention that "withdrawal from occupied territories" is a selective affair.

The PLO has for long insisted that Resolution 242 is not enough basis for a Middle East settlement because it makes no provision for an independent Palestinian state. The Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty are similarly deficient.

By accepting 242, the PLO does not sacrifice its state aspirations. The only party named in the resolution is Israel, and that is a reference to "Israeli armed forces" occupying territories taken in the 1967 war.

But Resolution 338, which was the basis for ending the 1973 war, is a better resolution in that it calls for "negotiations between the parties concerned under appropriate auspices aimed at establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East." That certainly involves the PLO.

By publicly offering a U.S. dialogue with the PLO, Carter has come a long way for an American president. He may even be signalling Israel that the U.S. commitment to abstain from talking to the PLO without its blessing (a provision of the Kissinger Sinai disengagement agreements) has now gone by the board.

It is a healthy thread in an otherwise disappointing U.S. fabric for Mideast peace, and a tempting one. It is a reminder of Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's recent remark that Israel would have to deal with the PLO sooner or later, although the Begin government quickly refuted Dayan's statement.

A U.S.-PLO dialogue would be a useful step forward at this stage toward repairing America's position in the Middle East and heading U.S. efforts for a comprehensive peace in the region in a more productive direction.

It is the Americans, however, who should go the extra step by restating their offer to the PLO so that it hinges on Resolution 338 rather than 242.

Afghan discontent

By Nicholas Moore

LONDON —

After the fall of the Shah of Iran, the pro-Soviet government of neighboring Afghanistan faces a rising tide of Muslim discontent.

But Western diplomats in London this week said that it was difficult to assess the scale of fighting reported to have broken out in the rugged, mountain land of 14 million people.

They said, however, that the government of President Nur Muhammad Tarakki, 62, in office since a coup last April, could be threatened if some 10 dissident groups now in existence were to unite.

The Soviet Union, with up to 1,000 advisers serving with the government forces, might then have to decide whether to launch a major effort to save him.

Tarakki, a shepherd's son, has begun reforms to modernize society, but some religious leaders who strongly influence the Afghan tribes see him as posing an atheistic threat.

In a speech in mid-March the president denied that blood was being spilt. Foreign reports of fighting were designed "to incite the toiling people of Afghanistan against the state," he claimed.

Exiled Muslim dissidents across the frontier in Pakistan, however, claimed heavy fighting and government losses in five Afghan provinces.

Diplomatic sources said sporadic clashes had occurred in the mountains near Pakistan since the April 1978 coup. But skirmishes with authority were normal in the wild and scarcely-governable lands around the Khyber Pass, where tribes have made fighting a hobby since the time of Alexander the Great.

Diplomats said, however, that during March the level of fighting had risen in this area, especially in the Kunar Valley, and some 35,000 refugees had fled to Pakistan.

It was hard to judge whether raids by government MiGs were against organized guerrillas or to subdue villages where people resisted reforms. Most tribesmen carry guns, from 19th century muskets to AK-47 Kalashnikov assault rifles.

The Afghans and Russians suspect Pakistan of allowing hostile activity on its soil, though this is strongly denied by the Pakistanis who appear anxious not to anger Tarakki and his Soviet backers.

"We are scrupulously avoiding any comment," a Pakistan spokesman in London said, when asked to confirm reports that Afghan guns shelled close to a refugee camp on Pakistani soil.

Pathan tribesmen in Pakistan, however, regard as brothers their fellow Pushtu-speakers in Afghanistan. And Pakistani tribal lands too, are difficult to police.

Western diplomats said the extent to which the rebels were acting together remained a big question.

The other unknown factor was whether Moscow would prop up Tarakki if his forces did begin to crumble before a United rebel onslaught.

A Soviet military intervention could demand that thousands of troops be hazarded in some of the best guerrilla terrain in the world. Britain, at the 19th century zenith of its imperial power, despaired of subduing the Afghans after two wars.

The Kremlin could decide that it could establish a working relationship with a new government, as it has done with every Afghan regime during the past 60 years. — (R)

saudi press review

"The Arab League Council is meeting in Mogadishu at a time of the resignation of its Secretary-General because his country, Egypt, has taken a separate line," "Al-Madina" said.

"After Egypt signs a separate peace treaty with Israel, Cairo may no longer be the best venue for further meetings," it added.

"Furthermore, the Arab League has certainly diminished in stature and importance as important issues continue to be discussed and decided upon outside its purview. There are voices demanding transferring its headquarters and other agencies to a place outside Egypt. But it is wrong to assume that the League should be done away with, because Egypt differs with the other states over the best ways to solve the Middle East question. The existence of the League is better than its liquidation because it will continue to represent the possibility of unified Arab action. It

should continue to exist as long as it is possible to coordinate Arab stands on political and economic policies as well as in matters concerning peace and resisting aggression.

"As for the Mogadishu conference it is clear that the Arabs as a group are facing increasing problems. But there should also be an awareness that the quickest way to a solution is through solidarity. The foreign ministers are expected to show that awareness still exists and that we can feel its effects in the near future."

According to "Al-Bilad", the Arab League "should lay down a working plan that would enable the Arabs to take advantage of the recent developments and get out of the impasse created by ideological conflicts and other differences. If they succeed in that, they will be in a better position to serve the Arab people more effectively."

...
The ordinary meeting of the

Arab League council is held in extraordinary circumstances," according to "Al-Jedrah." "The proposed Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is the greatest challenge of all," the paper added. "But we believe that the answer to this challenge lies in greater Arab unity."

...
Reviewing Zionist dreams and designs in the Arab world "Al-Nadwa" said the signing of a peace treaty with Egypt "was the fulfilment of another such dream by Begin the terrorist. Blaming Britain and then the United States, the paper said the two countries "were instrumental in the fulfilment of Zionist designs."

Britain promised the Zionists a homeland on Arab land and the United States engineered Israeli expansionism in this land, including the 1967 invasion which resulted in the occupation of more

Arab territory. Today the United States is participating in the fulfilment of another dream — that Israeli occupation of Palestine is a historic right given to God's chosen people. Meanwhile, the United States ignores the interests

of a whole nation and tramples on the rights of a homeless people. Unfortunately, an Arab country takes part in the realization of another Zionist aggression although it knows that it is the only loser in the bargain. Does Egypt realize that it can never win because it will find itself helping the enemy realize his dreams? Does it realize that as of today it would be a partner in the realization of new Zionist dreams in the name of peace?"



They are waiting for the Jeddah Night — Al-Madina

Gossamer wings across the Channel

By Lee Austin
LOS ANGELES—On a calm, windless day this summer, a strange-looking aircraft, resembling a large cocoon dangling from a long gossamer-like wing, will take off from England and head for France and a \$200,000 prize.

Inside the transparent plastic cocoon will be a young man seated on a bicycle frame, pedaling like a man to keep the propeller behind him spinning fast enough to keep the craft out of the English Channel.

Along the way, he may have to dodge some of the 400 to 500 ships which ply the Channel every day. The craft will be flying at an altitude of only 20 to 30 feet.

Named the "Gossamer Albatross,"

the pedal-powered plane is being readied at a Terminal Island site by its designer and builder, Dr. Paul MacCready of Pasadena, California, an aerodynamicist and his team for a crack at a 100,000 pound prize (nearly \$200,000 in U.S. currency). It was put up by British industrialist Henry Kremer for the first aircraft to fly across the English Channel solely by human power.

The monoplane has a 30-meter wing-span. It is covered with a super-strength plastic called mylar, which is paper thin. Spars of the 1.5-meter-wide wing and other structural components are made of carbon filament, which is lighter yet 10 times stronger than aluminum.

The overall weight is only 25

kilograms.

A pusher type, the single-blade propeller is mounted behind the cockpit, which is enclosed with mylar to reduce wind drag. Protuding in front is a 7-meter-long "canard" or stabilizer which is used along with warping of the wing tips to turn and go up and down.

The wing and "canard" actions are controlled with piano wires by the pilot, who coordinates the movements with levers. He pedals to turn the propeller via a series of chains and sprockets.

The plane rolls on a takeoff run of about 1.5 meters on two small tandem-mounted wheels from a chassis.

MacCready and his crew are highly optimistic.

"We're confident we will make it. I know the machine will accomplish the task," said Bryan Allen, the 26-year-old pilot and power supply for the plane.

MacCready, a national and international sailplane soaring champion, and his team members have earned their wings in man-powered flight.

In August 1977 MacCready's first plane, the "Gossamer Condor," made aviation history and won a \$90,000 prize from Kremer.

Magazine's CIA list 'inaccurate'

By a Staff Reporter
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—Nine of the 16 key officers at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran labelled as CIA personnel by "CounterSpy" magazine are definitely not with the CIA, an informed U.S. political source told "Arab News."

One of the 16 persons is a CIA officer, the source confirmed, but "if you picked any 16 people at random from the list of U.S. Embassy personnel, you would come up with one CIA officer."

"CounterSpy" seems to know little about the personnel practices and organization of either the State Department or the CIA, the source said.

The magazine is going on one fact only: an individual's assignment in the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR) at some point in his career, the source said.

INR has no intelligence collection capability at all. It is a think tank and its liaison with CIA consists of receiving those reports that CIA chooses to send them, the source said.

Since 1974 the CIA and INR have exchanged personnel from

by being the first human-powered craft to fly the prescribed 2.3-kilometer figure-eight course over land at an airport near Shafter, California.

The flight of the sister plane to the "Albatross" took 7.5 minutes. Its highest altitude was slightly over 10 feet.

MacCready, who dreamed up the design while driving his family on a cross-country vacation trip "with boring stretches" the previous year, beat about 50 groups of constants from around the world to the 18-year-old prize.

Now MacCready, a 1952 graduate of the California Institute of Technology and president of Aerovironment Inc. in Pasadena, faces a greater and more dangerous challenge.

The distance across the channel is 35 kilometers. MacCready figures the flight will take 2.5 hours if no obstacles such as ships get in the way.

Since some ships' superstructures rise 30 to 50 meters or more above the water, they may pose a problem for the Albatross. It must keep below the 160-foot altitude limit set by Kremer and the Royal Aeronautical Society for safety reasons.

They believe that if the plane

crashes from that altitude the pilot is less likely to get hurt, said Sterling Stoll, project manager for the flight.

The "Albatross" flight plans call for "on the deck" flying at 20 to 30 feet above the water because the plane's wing is more efficient close to the surface, said Stoll.

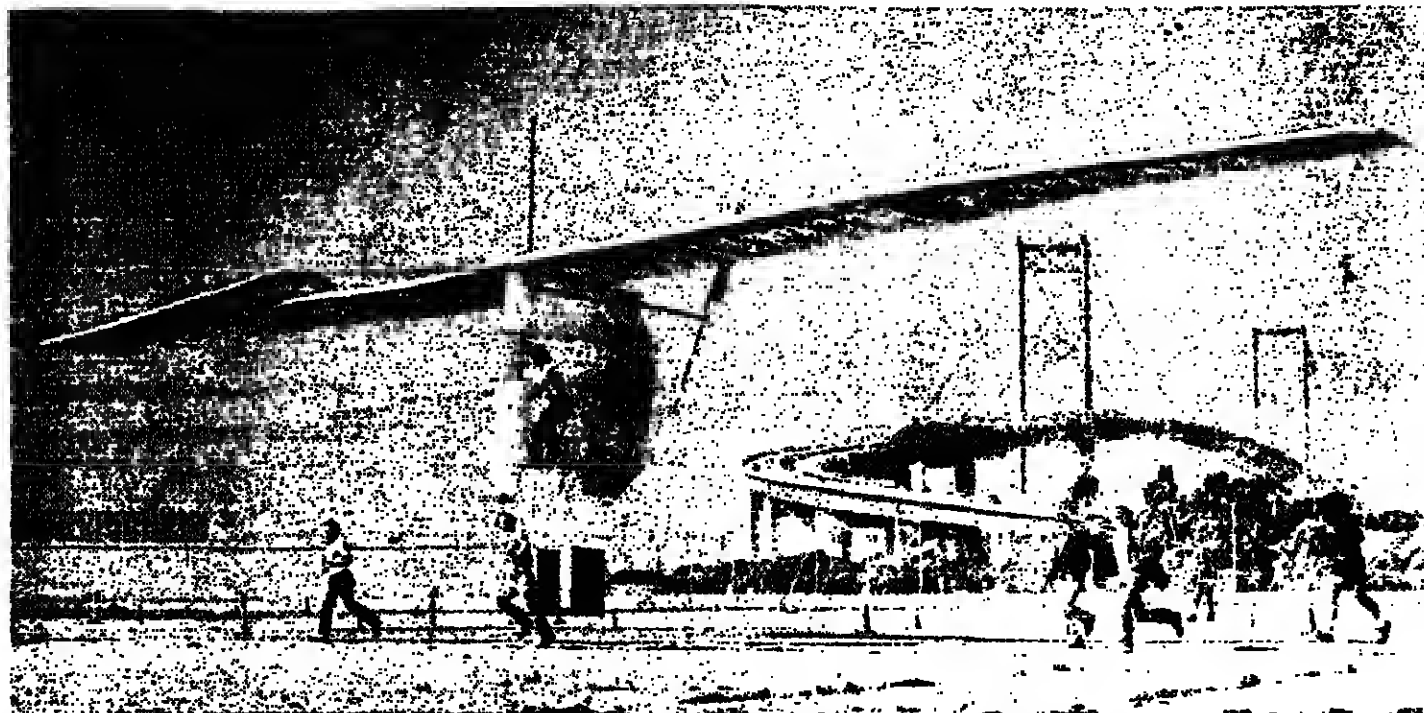
"A big problem will be the supertanker in the Channel," Stoll said. "Bryan may wind up flying 85 kilometers instead of 35."

MacCready also is concerned about ships and coastline protrusions because they are likely to disturb the air flow.

Any wind above 5 m.p.h. will mean grounding the plane, Stoll said.

At the planned air speed of 10 m.p.h., he figures he will be pedaling 60 to 70 revolutions a minute. And that, he said, means "a lot of pumping" during the 2.5-hour flight.

A slender bicycle racer and hang glider huff from Bakersfield, California, Allen is keeping in shape for the flight. He bicycles 65 kilometers a day and in inclement



MacCready's pedal-powered "Gossamer Albatross" on a test flight recently

Medical conference to open in Dammam

By Geoff Gardner
DAMMAM—More than 600 physicians are expected to attend the Fourth Saudi Medical Conference this week at King Faisal University, according to Dr. A.M. Lutfi, vice dean of academic affairs at King Faisal University and conference coordinator for medical education.

The conference, which begins Tuesday, March 27, will feature more than 150 medical papers presented to the physicians before the conference ends on March 29.

"It is a forum for physicians practicing in the Kingdom to get together and exchange views on their personal and professional experience in light of the most recent advances in their respective areas," Lutfi said. "It will be a learning experience. Many of them are stationed in remote areas and may not be up-to-date. This is one way of educating them in a continuing medical education."

The conference will also have an international flavor as doctors from such places as Kuwait, Sudan, Lebanon, Bahrain, Iran, India, the United States and Scotland will be there to read papers and attend presentations.

Papers will be read concurrently in five halls of the Medicine and Medical Sciences Building of KFU. The five general areas will be internal medicine, medical education, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, and community medicine/family practice/pediatrics.

Proceedings will begin at 10 a.m. March 27 with opening ceremonies and continue with readings until late afternoon. On the following two days, papers will be delivered from 8 a.m. until late afternoon.

Although emphasis will be given to each of the five general topics, medical education is of special importance.

Several sessions will deal with traumatology, the branch of medicine dealing with injuries. This is especially important in Saudi Arabia because of the great number of road accidents here, according to Lutfi.

Papers will also be read on burns, chemotherapy, allergies, hypertension, infertility, immunization and gastroenteritis.

The previous three annual Saudi medical conferences were held at Aramco, King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Riyadh and King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah, respectively. This year's conference is jointly sponsored by KFU, Aramco, and the Ministry of Health.

Various displays will be part of the conference including medical equipment, medical books and pharmaceuticals.

Conference registration will be held from 8 a.m. until noon on March 27 at the College of Medicine at KFU. The university is located in Dammam along the coastal highway to Al-Khobar.

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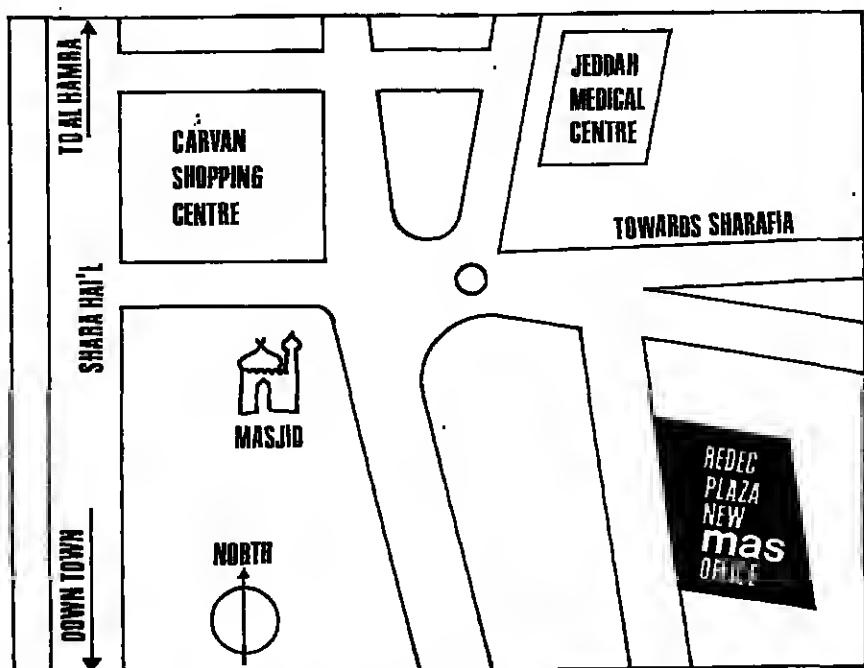
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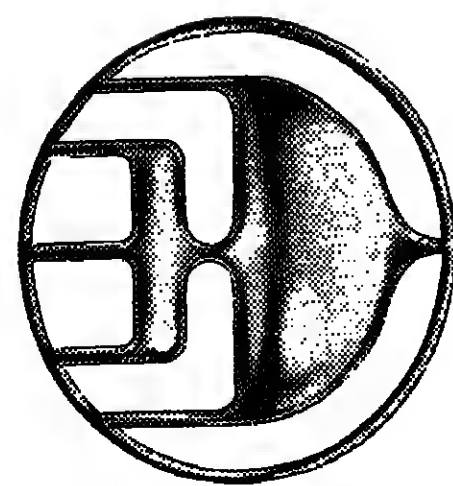


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Carter vows to rap firms hindering inflation plan

ELK CITY, Okla. March 25 (AP) — U.S. President Jimmy Carter, labelling America's inflation rate unacceptable, has pledged to hire more price watchers to identify publicly "irresponsible firms" that have made "unjustified price increases."

Bank of Italy chief faces charge in credit scandal

ROME, March 25 (AP) — Paolo Baffi, the governor of Italy's central bank, has been charged with misuse of his office in what was reported as a widening credit scandal.

Police have also charged and arrested Mario Sarcinelli, deputy director of the bank.

Sarcinelli was Saturday handcuffed and taken to jail, but Baffi was only charged according to judicial sources.

One reason for this was his age, nearly 70.

What the state-owned national television described as "an earthquake at the summit of the Bank of Italy" came after 16 months of investigations into low-interest credits totalling almost \$1.1 billion granted by various banks and credit institutes to some 150 firms controlled by Societa Italiana Resine (SIR), a Sardinian chemical concern.

corporations.

"Too many business leaders seem to feel that the fight against inflation is not their responsibility," he said. "I will take firm steps to deal with this problem in the days ahead."

One step he mentioned was an order to the Council on Wage and Price Stability to obtain regular reports on price increases from firms in problem industries.

Carter had left Washington in the midst of a Saturday afternoon thunderstorm for a weekend of political fence-mending in Oklahoma and Texas.

He said companies that are identified as breaking his administration's voluntary price-increase guidelines will be asked for explanations. If the explanation is not enough, he said, "I will not hesitate to identify those irresponsible firms and individuals to the people of this nation."



"IRRESPONSIBLE": President Carter presides over his administration's textile program Thursday in Washington. Saturday night he pledged to take steps against "irresponsible" firms which were hindering his inflation plan by not following the guidelines he set in the program.

U.K. confidence vote gives boost to market

LONDON, March 25 — The news in the London market has become almost wholly political. The effect of the Conservative Party's decision to go for a vote of confidence next Wednesday — based as it must be upon a reasoned calculation that they can muster sufficient votes to win — stimulated a very sharp rise in the market of Friday (with the Financial Times ordinary index going up 15.3 to 529.9). The news furthermore ensured an extremely successful launch for the new government's stock which had been issued the day before (by way of tender).

The feeling is that if the government is defeated in the vote this week the market could go higher still. And even if it isn't defeated, there will probably be another chance for Mrs. Thatcher to unseat it in a few weeks time.

The paradox in the U.K. today is whether a strong stock market is really justified given the relatively difficult conditions in industry. Undoubtedly the return of a Conservative government will be good for market sentiment: the prospect of a future fall in interest rates should be good news with, above all else the widespread hope of cuts in taxation and in public expenditure.

(Supplied by Rowe Isaac and Co.)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Opening Sunday	SAMA rate	Cash	Transfer
U.S. Dollar	3.36	3.37	3.37
Pound Sterling	6.83	6.90	6.90
Deutsche Mark (100)	181.00	181.00	180.75
Swiss F (100)	200.00	201.00	199.75
French F (100)	78.00	78.75	78.75
Italian Lira (1000)	4.00	4.02	4.02
Lebanese Lira (100)	—	108.50	107.60
Syrian Lira (100)	—	78.75	86.70
Egyptian Pound	—	4.50	4.80
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	12.22	12.24
Jordanian Dinar	—	11.28	11.28
Emirates Dirham (100)	—	87.25	87.80
Qatari Riyal (100)	—	87.25	87.80
Bahraini Dinar	—	8.72	8.78
Iranian Ryal (100)	—	41.00	—
Iraqi Dinar	—	10.00	—
Yemeni Riyal (100)	—	74.00	74.10
Moroccan Dirham (100)	—	79.25	87.10
Indian Rupee (100)	—	—	41.35
Pakistani Rupee (100)	—	32.35	34.25
Gold kg	—	26.300	—
10 Tolas bar	—	3.080	—
Silver kg bar	—	900	—
Japanese yen (100)	1.62	—	—
Canadian dollar	2.88	—	—
Belgian franc (10)	1.18	—	—
Dutch guilder	1.67	1.69	—

SAMA rates announced by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, based on average rates on the London money market and the official price of the U.S. dollar.

Cash and transfer rates supplied by Al-Rajhi Company for currency exchange and commerce, Gabel St., Jeddah. Tel.: 23815

Decontrolling crude could raise prices, consumer group says

WASHINGTON, March 25 (AP) — A consumer group favouring government controls on energy prices in the United States says that decontrolling crude oil could cost American consumers \$68.5 million a day in higher fuel costs in 1980.

Energy Action Saturday said an oil deregulation proposal like the one being considered by President Jimmy Carter would only put a higher price on oil which would have been produced anyway.

Carter, expected to address the nation Thursday on energy issues, reportedly is considering steps to allow U.S.-produced oil to rise gradually to world-market prices. The average price of domestic

crude oil now is about \$9 a barrel, compared with the \$13.43 price set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

By 1981, both the U.S. price and the OPEC price will have risen to about \$19 a barrel if phased oil deregulation comes about, Energy Action said.

It said there is no indication deregulation will result in significant new supplies of oil, despite industry contentions that it is needed to provide the incentive for new exploration.

The group is stiff critic of Carter administration energy policies and waged a losing campaign last year against the president's plan to decontrol natural gas prices.

"The essential flaw in the whole decontrol theory is that Americans would have to pay decontrolled prices for huge amounts of oil which would have been produced anyway," said James Plog, director of Energy Action.

The group arrived at its \$68.5 million-a-day fuel cost figure by assuming domestic production of 10 million barrels a day starting next January.

It said that without decontrol, the price at that time would be \$10.40 per barrel, meaning a \$104 million daily cost to consumers. With decontrol, the group said, the price would be 17.25 dollars a barrel, meaning \$172.5 million a day in consumer costs.

M.V. "RABENFELS" ROA 28
OF
D.D.G. "HANSA" BREMEN
HAS ARRIVED JEDDAH ON
24/3/1979 AD 26/4/ 1399H.

Consignees having cargo on this vessel are requested to contact undermentioned agents with the original Bills of Lading, or Bank Guarantee in order to obtain delivery order for their consignments. Consignees should note that a deposit of SR 1000/- is payable to us in addition to the Lo-Lo charges SR 200/- per 20 and SR 300/- per 40 container. Demurrage SR 50/- per day per container is payable after free time of 15 days from the date of discharge. For further information contact:

Haji Abdullah Alireza & Co. Ltd.
Shipping Department,
P.O. Box: No. 8 Jeddah.
Phone: 26329, 22233 Ext: 36-37 & 40.
Cable: Zainalrezaship
Telex: 401037 Zereza SJ.



PORTS AUTHORITY

KING ABDUL AZIZ PORT
DAMMAM

SHIP MOVEMENTS UP TO THE MORNING OF

CHANGES PAST 24 HRS. DATE: 27. 4. 1399/ 25. 3. 1979
TIME: 0700 HRS.

Vessels Working Berth No.	Name of the Ship	Agent	Type of cargo	Arrival Date
5	TSINGYI ISLAND	U.E.P.	GENERAL	24.3.79
10	WUXI	ORRI	LOADING UREA	21.3.79
11	BACHDANG	SOEASIA	C. CEMENT IN BAG	18.3.79
12	TONGARIRO	KANOO	GROZEN MEAT	24.3.79
15	STRATHMORE	KANOO	GENERAL/REEFER	24.3.79
18	EVPO ARMIS	SOEASIA	C. CEMENT	17.3.79
20	CARICA	S.A.I.T.E.	C. CEMENT IN BAG	12.3.79
21	ARABIAN LULUAH	BARBER	CEMENT SILO VSL	28.3.77
26	MALDIVE LOYALTY	U.E.P.	RICE IN BAGS	24.3.79
28	MAHA VIJAY	S.E.A.	GENERAL	23.3.79

2- RECENT ARRIVALS				
TSING YI ISLAND	U.E.P.	GENERAL	24.3.79	
TONGARIRO	KANOO	FROZEN MEAT	24.3.79	
STRATHMORE	KANOO	GENERAL / REEFER	24.3.79	
MALDIVE EXPRESS	ORRI	GENERAL	24.3.79	

3- VESSELS EXPECTED WITH IN 24 HOURS				
NEDLLOYD BAHRAIN	KANOO			
TREPCA	KANOO			
EVERDAWN	KANOO			
CHASTINE MAERSK	KANOO			
NEDLLOYDROTTERDAM	KANOO			
NEWZELAND STAR	BARBER			
FREUDENFELS	ALIREZA			
ROBERT E-LEE	KANOO			

4- TONNAGES DISCHARGED: (FREIGHT TONS): 27,266

5- WAITING TIME: NIL

Note: Importers having goods on the above mentioned ships should complete their formalities as soon as possible. For any inquiries please contact the Shipping Agents.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES SARAMAT LINES

— M/V. "BAHJAH" VOY. 46/79

— ETA JEDDAH 27/3/79

is arriving Jeddah Islamic port, on 27/3/1979 Consignees having containers on his vessel are requested to obtain delivery order from our office against surrender of Original Bill of Lading or bank guarantee in order to take delivery of their containers immediately.

M/S. HIGHSPEED SERVICE CORP.

Alsuleyman Building, 4th Floor.
King Abdul Aziz Street,
P.O. Box: 6262—Tel: 30970, 41516.
TLX NO. 401678 HAIDER SJ.
JEDDAH SAUDI ARABIA.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES SARAMAT LINES

— M / V

"BRUNIVOY" 1/79

— ETA JEDDAH 27/3/79

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TLX NO. 401678 HAIDER SJ.
JEDDAH SAUDI ARABIA.

Saudi Arabian Government Tenders

Authority	Description	No. of Tender	Price SR	Closing Date
Directorate of the National Guard	Constructing of barracks, depots, bathrooms, canteens and offices for the Command's premises in Arar and Nejran	9-98/99	2000	April 14
" "	Constructing of a small workshop for car repairs in Arar and Nejran	10-98/99	500	April 16
Directorate General of Education, Eastern Province	Constructing of an ordinary school in Hujra Rawda bin Sherim in Rafha	1	100	April 9
" "	Repairs to the Holy Koran memorization school, clinic and other buildings at the Guard's schools in Khassm Al-Aan	12-98/99	200	April 10
Ministry of the Interior, Public Security	Supply of raw materials and equipment for public security's press	1-99/1400	250	May 2
Directorate of the National Guard	Repairs to ordnance premises and barracks at the Guard's schools in Khassm Al-Aan	11-98/99	200	April 8



PORTS AUTHORITY JEDDAH ISLAMIC PORT

SHIP MOVEMENTS UP TO THE MORNING OF 25TH MARCH 1979.

1- VESSELS DISCHARGING	AGENT	CARGO	ARR. DATE
1A —	—	—	—
2 —	—	—	—
3 —	—	—	—
4 —	—	—	—
5 GOOD STAR	OCEAN TRD.	STEEL/PAPER/ GEN/CONST. MATS.	22.3.79
6 —	—	—	—
7 —	—	—	—
8 TELAMON	KANOO	BGS. RICE/CONTAINERS	22.3.79
9 ABOUDY	RED SEA	RICE & GENERAL	23.3.79
10 MEDO	FAYEZ	GENERAL	23.3.79
11 ULSTER STAR	O.C.E.	PROZ. POULTRY/ BUTTERAPPLES	21.3.79
12 —	—	—	—
13 ANTONIOS II	STAR NAV.	DURRA	24.3.79
14 —	—	—	—
15 MERCANDIAN CAIX	ORRI	GENERAL	24.3.79
16 LAERTES	ALATAS	GENERAL/CONTAINERS	24.3.79
17 —	—	—	—
18 IONIAN CARRIER	ROLACO	BULK CEMENT	18.3.79
19 GERARD L.D.	ALSABAH	BULK CEMENT	20.3.79
20 —	—	—	—
21 —	—	—	—
22 —	—	—	—
23 KANARIS	A. A.	Bagged Cement	18.3.79
24 FILIPINAS SAUDI 1	S.A.M.A.	ACCOMMODATION SHIP	—
25 —	—	—	—
26 —	—	—	—
27 BARGES EX SAM HOUSTON	A.E.T.	GENERAL	22.3.79
28 —	—	—	—
29 MALDIVE AMBASSADOR	OCEAN	STEEL BARS/GENERAL	23.3.79
30 SANSTEFANO	STAR NAV.	ORANGES	24.3.79
31 —	—	—	—
32 —	—	—	—
33 —	—	—	—
34 —	—	—	—
35 —	—	—	—
36 —	—	—	—
37 —	—	—	—
38 —	—	—	—
39 —	—	—	—
40 —	—	—	—
41 —	—	—	—
42 —	—	—	—
43 —	—	—	—
44 —	—	—	—
RO RO	—	—	—
1 MERSARIO AUSONIA	A.E.T.	RO-RO	23.3.79
2 —	—	—	—
3 —	—	—	—
4- RECENT ARRIVALS			
SKULTOR ZALKALUS	A.E.T.	AUTOMOBILES	24.3.79
ANGIA EXPRESS	RED SEA	CONTAINERS/GENERAL	24.3.79
SAN STEFANO	STAR NAV.	ORANGES	24.3.79
MERCANDIAN CAIX	ORRI	GENERAL	25.3.79
ANTONIOS II	STAR NAV.	DURRA	25.3.79
5- VESSELS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE WITH IN NEXT 24 HOURS			
EASTERN MERIT	ALSABAH	BGS. RICE/GENERAL	25.3.79
NOTO MARU	ALIREZA	GENERAL	25.3.79
CENTRA STAR	SHOBOKSHI	GENERAL/TIMBER	25.3.79
LINA Y	ALPHA	STEEL/TIM/ GEN/CTRS.	25.3.79
NGAN CHAU	ALATAS	LOADS MTY CONTAINERS	25.3.79
SOUTH POLE	O.C.E.	CHICKENS	25.3.79
BLACKFORD	KANOO	CTRS./LOADS MTYS.	25.3.79
ZYGUMUNT III	ATTAR	LOADS MTY CONTAINERS	25.3.79
WAZA	—	—	—
SKOTLAND	BARBER	CONTAINERS	25.3.79
BURADAH	RED SEA	RO-RO	25.3.79
HUAL JASMINE	A.E.T.	VEHICLES	25.3.79
MEDCEMENT CARRIER	ROLACO	BULK CEMENT	25.3.79
RIZA ISIK	EL HAWI	TIMBER	25.3.79

4- TONNAGES DISCHARGED: (FREIGHT TONS): 78,716

5- WAITING TIME: NIL

Note: Importers having goods on the above mentioned ships should complete their formalities as soon as possible. For any inquiries please contact the Shipping Agents.

arab news
International Finance
International Bourse, Commodities, Money and Exchange Rates

WORLD STOCK MARKETS - **بورصات العالم**

EXCHANGE RATES AND LONDON GOLD	اسعار العملات والذهب
LONDON	NEW YORK

March 23		March 23	
Operating Prices		Operating Prices	
USA	2.9346-2.9379	STG	2.9352-2.9385
Canada	2.9315-2.9325	BEF CON	2.9326-29.49
France	8.7398-8.7408	FRF	86.482-86.50
Belgium	69.00-69.10	FFR	4.9304-4.9309
Italy	170.00-171.00	LI	83.00-83.01
Japan	4.1000-4.1010	LT	2.9322-2.9330
Switzerland	3.9425-3.9435	SPF	1.9385-1.9390
Germany	3.7959-3.7969	DPR	1.9381-1.9390
Sweden	9.9300-9.9310	YEN	3.0025-3.0070
Norway	10.9900-10.9910	ALG	5.9300-5.9310
Denmark	16.9900-16.9910	DKR	5.1900-5.1935
Austria	27.77-27.83	POB	45.00-45.10
Portugal	97.48-97.49	SCR	4.9710-4.9730
Greece	160.00-161.00	ISK	68.97-68.99
Spain	418.20-418.80	SPAN	68.97-68.99

N.Y. DOLLAR CROSSES	
March 23	
Goldster	2.8137
Schilling Franc	29.4986
Deutschmark	1.8659
Hong Kong Dollar	9.9214
French Franc	4.2841
Swiss Franc	679.926
Japanese Yen	285.580
Swiss Franc	1.6879

LONDON GOLD	
March 23	
3.00 p.m. fix	\$25.85
Morning fix	\$25.82
Yesterday's fix	\$25.82

DOW JONES STOCK AVERAGES				مؤشر دآو جونز			
DOW JONES CLOSING STOCK AVERAGES				DOW JONES 11.00 a.m. STOCK AVERAGES			
March 22				March 23			
30 Industrials	\$61.31	UP 3.55	or 6.21%	30 Industrials	\$61.23	DN .08	or 0.01%
20 Transport	\$46.75	UP 1.78	or 3.84%	20 Transport	216.00	UP 1.00	or 0.46%
15 Utilities	\$74.63	UP 5.30	or 7.25%	13 Utilities	\$84.40	DN .13	or 0.15%
65 Stocks	101.21	UP 1.10	or 1.08%	65 Stocks	290.05	UP .84	or 0.01%

[illegible]

New York Bond Market: A Special Report by Byron Klapper

New York — (AP-D)— Bond prices firmed slightly as investors shopped at new municipal and corporate issues, but dealer bonds were free to rise.

The activity failed to spark much interest from investors, who preferred to wait for more signs they would indicate a clear direction for interest rates.

"I have a pending bond with \$50 million dollars of face waiting for marketing," said one dealer broker. "He'd like to get two points lower, where there

isn't a scale set by a competing group, as the yields were reduced 0.85 percentage point. For the 15-year, the yield of 6.49% for the new issue was 6.45% for 15 years and 6.70% for 20 years were lower than terms set by fiscal uncertainty."

"We had a large account and really wanted the buy bonds," said one Chase spokesman. The bid produced a 6.49% yearly financing cost for Massachusetts.

The State has approved its fiscal condition and

would be read, and, if several points appear in a bill, the bill will be read again. The House will vote on the 1986 Treasury securities now with inflation at 10.6% makes this a hore," he said.

That sentiment was evident among Thursday's trash analysts. Monmouth, which operates a rebarbaling plant on Wall Street as a S&P getting by, said it was "not sure" it could afford to pay at bonds. Better than 50% were sold by late Thursday through a 148-member syndicate led by Chase Manhattan Bank. The bonds were priced fairly

to 31% of recovery. An analysis by E. Hutton & Co. says, Massachusetts exports a 1 million-ton surplus for fiscal 1987, unless Gov. M. Allen, short-term debt is reduced to \$10 million. More than more than a billion dollars and more are being made to each other.

Financial pressures remain, however, as the State assumes a larger share of local costs for coping with rising medical expenses and pension funding, analysts said.

	March 23	March 22	March 20	March 19	March 18	March 15	A year ago
Government Secs.	73.65	73.29	72.54	72.56	71.53	71.65	72.38
Fixed Income	73.75	73.24	73.55	72.92	72.32	71.22	72.38
Industrial/Ordinary	53.4	51.4	51.8	50.6	50.9	51.0	46.5
Gold Mines	16.17	15.91	15.84	16.7	16.9	16.97	15.6
Oil Mines (Ex-Spm)	122.9	123.3	120.9	122.9	123.4	121.6	108.6
Oil Dr. Wfr.	14.30	14.29	14.3	14.5	14.54	14.55	14.2
Extractions (Excl. Oil)	14.28	14.74	14.57	14.89	14.76	17.23	17.29
Div. Yields (net)(%)	8.97	8.65	8.74	8.56	8.43	8.65	8.162
P/E Ratios (net)	6.658	7.344	6.804	7.299	5.711	6.491	6.462

Equity turnover ratio	15.7%	15.5%	40.1%	34.5%	12.5%	14.7%
Equity turnover total	27,864	28,557	27,166	23,379	21,330	42,784
Reun. 524.6	11 am. 525.9	Notes 528.5	1 pm. 529.1	3 pm. 529.5		
Lend Index 61-236 9026.						
Based on 52 per cent corporation tax. * NW = R.A.G.						
Reals 180 Govt. Secs. 15/10/76. Flared Inc. 1928. Inst. Ord. 1/7/55.						
Gold Mines 12/9/55. Ex-6 pm. Index started June, 1972. SE Activity July-Dec. 1942.						

March 23 Lanchtime Prices			SOYABEAN MEAL		
	Today's Closing	Previous Closing		Today's Closing	Previous Closing
	per tonne			per tonne	
COCOA			April	128.28	127.10
March	1651	1645	June	130.00	128.50
April	1676	1675	August	130.40	130.20
May	1672.5	1671	October	128.50	128.50
June	1683	1682	December	128.00	127.00
September	1754	1750	February	127.00	127.00
December	1781	1777	April	130.80	127.00
		same			

May		1979		1979		March 22 Official Close	
ROBUSTA COFFEE							
		¢ per pound					
March	1453	1451		ALUMINIUM	Today's Closing	Previous Closing	
April	1454	1452					
July	1464	1465		Cash	771.00	772.00	
September	1482	1482		Three months	766.50	767.00	
November	1486	1485		Settlement	772.80	—	
January	1478	1479					
March	1468	1463					
GRAINS							
	Wheat	Barley		COPPER		¢ per pound	
	Yesterday's Trading	Yesterday's Trading					
				Winthers			

	£ per long ton			£ per tonne	
May	99.40	95.45	Cash	1053.50	1024.00
June	97.58	94.40	Three months	1078.00	1071.00
September	96.85	93.70	Six months	1054.00	—
November	95.85	93.70	Cardinals	—	—
January	99.40	99.30	Three months	1046.00	1047.00
			Six months	1063.50	1064.00
			Six months	1047.00	—

	Pence per kilo			£ per tonne	
April	68.50	68.40	Cash	566.50	567.50
May	61.60	61.40	Three months	535.50	536.00
August	61.25	61.25	Six months	567.50	—
July-September	64.55	64.55			
Oct.-December	64.65	64.65			
January	68.00	68.00			

April-June	78.60	76.50
July-September	72.58	72.45
Oct.-December	74.35	74.58

RAW SUGAR	
Cane Price	
	¢ per long ton
May	109.45
August	113.35
October	116.35
December	119.60
March	122.40
May	125.45

SILVER	
	Per troy ounce
Cash	373.30
Three months	363.30
Settlement	373.60

TIN	
	¢ per tonne
Standard	
Cash	7420
Settlement	7425

August	128.50	128.00	High Grade	7446	7460
			Cash	7339	7335
			Three months	—	—
			Settlement	7460	—
WHITE SUGAR					
	\$ per long ton				
July	189.25	188.55			
September	114.50	114.25			
November	118.50	118.00			
February	126.50	126.00	ZINC		
April	131.50	130.50		\$ per tonne	
July	135.00	134.50	Cash	395.80	394.00
September	138.50	137.50	Three months	407.00	407.50
			Settlement	394.00	—

FOREIGN RATES		سعر فوائد العملات الأجنبية	
London Sterling	Swiss Franc	W. German Mark	French Franc
100-10	4 1/2	3 1/2 1/16 - 1 1/16	60-60 1/2
50-10	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	7-10
100-100	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10-11
100-1/16	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-1/4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-1/2	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-3/4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-1	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-1 1/4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-1 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-1 3/4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-2	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-2 1/4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-2 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-2 3/4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-3	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-3 1/4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-3 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-3 3/4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-4 1/4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-4 3/4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-5	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-5 1/4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-5 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-5 3/4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-6	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-6 1/4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-6 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-6 3/4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-7	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-7 1/4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-7 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-7 3/4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-8	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-8 1/4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-8 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-8 3/4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-9	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-9 1/4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-9 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-9 3/4	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2
100-10	4 1/2	4 1/16 - 6 1/2	10 1/2 - 11 1/2

ton dollar certificate of deposit: One month 10.39-10.40 per cent; three months 10.35-10.45 per cent; six months 10.30-10.40 per cent; one year 10.25-10.35 per cent; two years 10.20-10.30 per cent; three years 10.15-10.25 per cent; four years 10.10-10.20 per cent; five years 10.05-10.15 per cent; six years 10.00-10.10 per cent; seven years 9.95-10.05 per cent; eight years 9.90-10.00 per cent; nine years 9.85-9.95 per cent; ten years 9.80-9.90 per cent. U.S. dollars and Canadian dollars; two days' notice for holders and Swiss francs. Asian rates are closing as follows:

B.C.

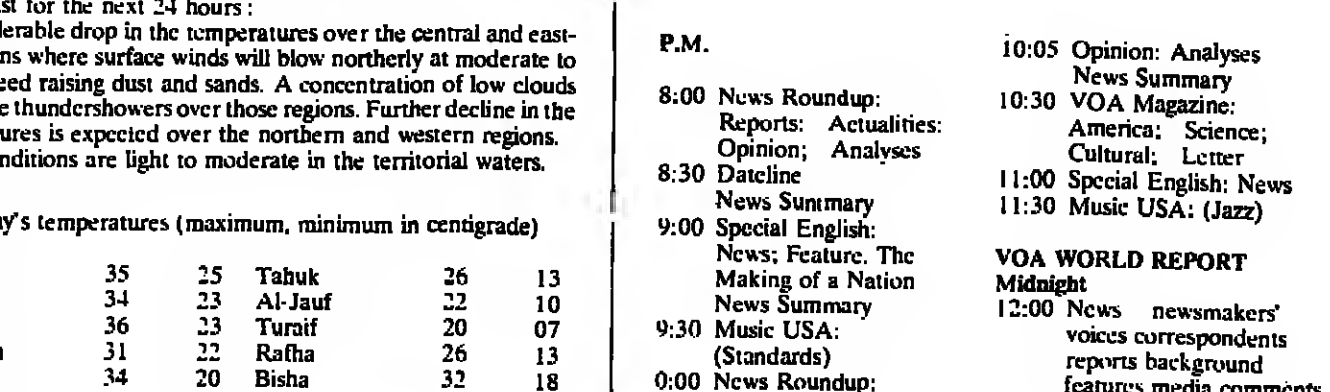
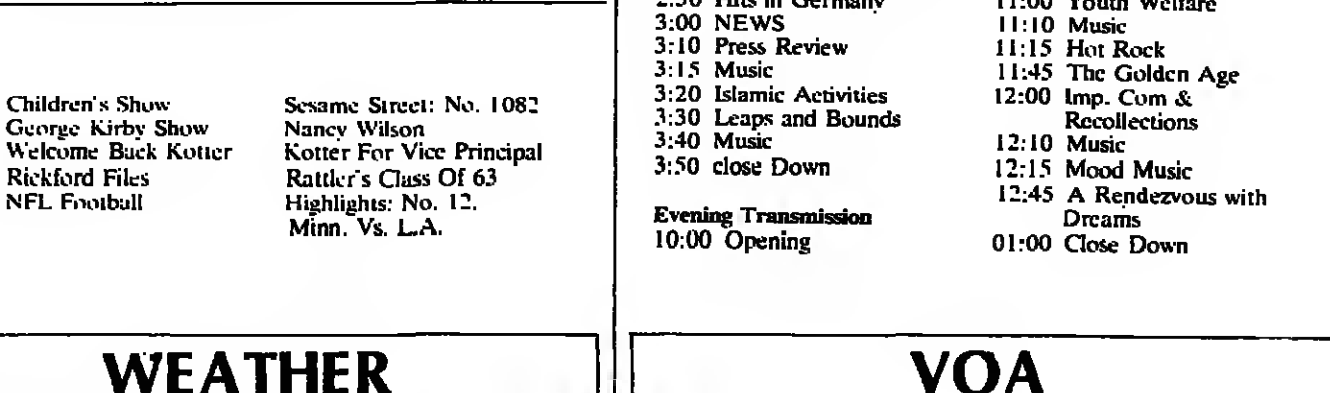
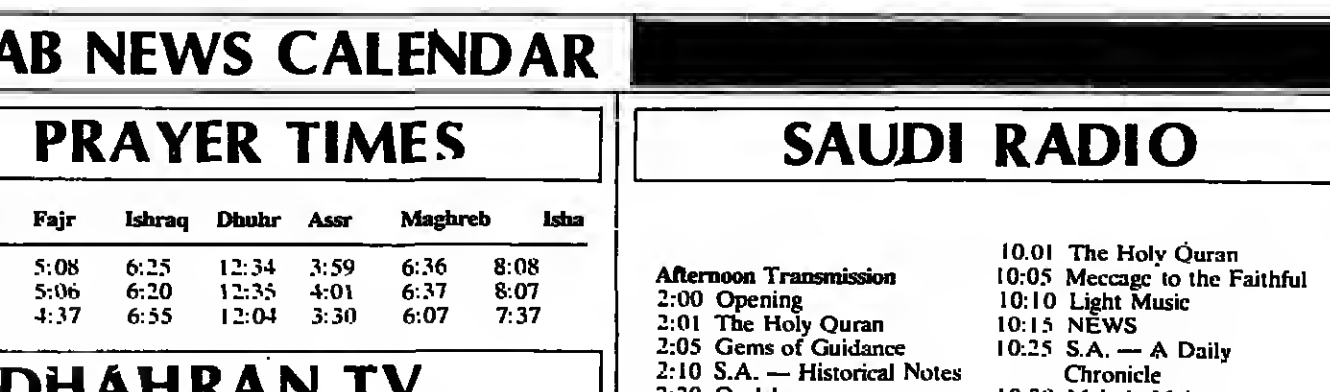
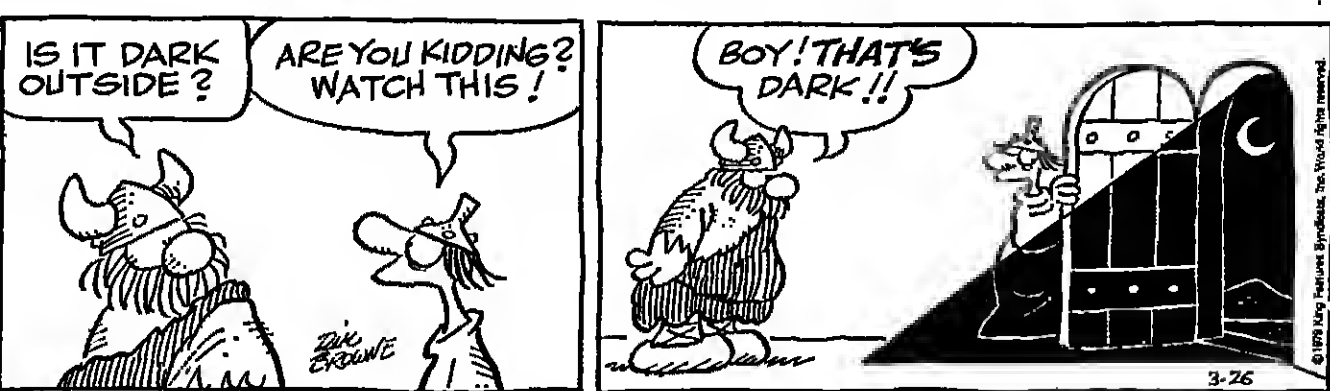
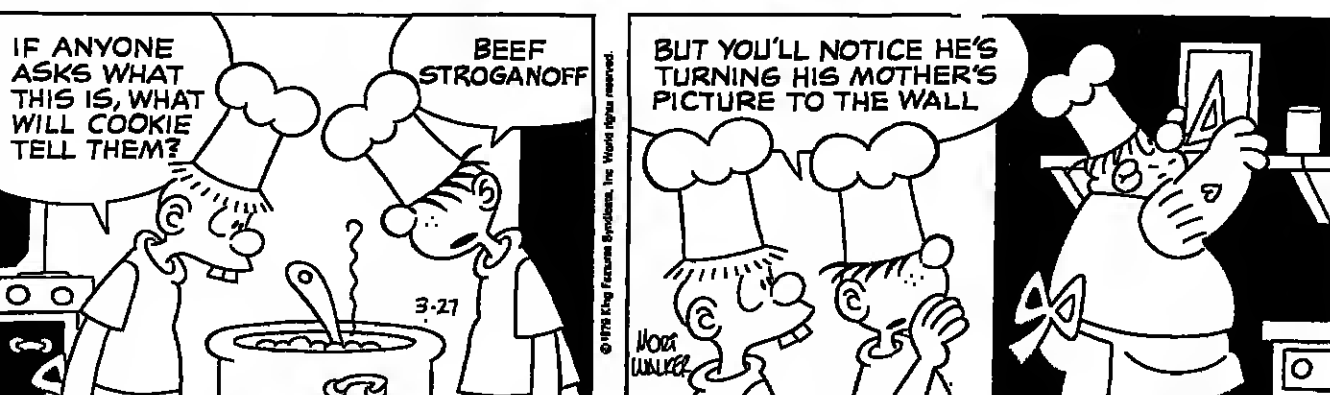
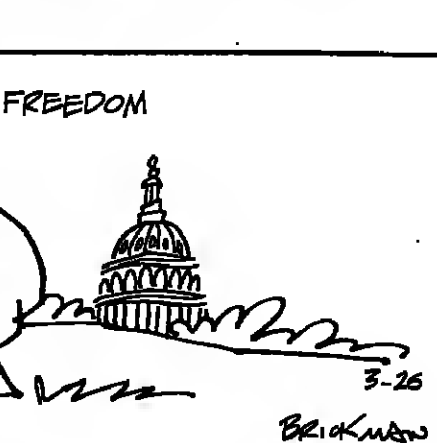
SMALL SOCIETY

BLONDIE

BEETLE BAILEY

HAGAR

WIZARD



Dennis the Menace

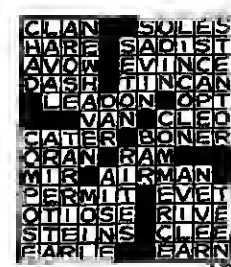


CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Crossword

by THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 Mold
 - 2 Famed fabulist
 - 3 Malmo native
 - 4 "Ode — Nightingale"
 - 5 Part of P.T.A.
 - 6 Cruising
 - 7 Do battle with
 - 8 "22 Darado"
 - 9 Overst
 - 10 Offer
 - 11 Pungent
 - 12 Fencing foil
 - 13 Ranges
 - 14 Fort — Calif.
 - 15 Snoop
 - 16 Resource
 - 17 Bishop's cap
 - 18 Head, Fr.
 - 19 Performed
 - 20 Go astray
 - 21 Of all
 - 22 Imitate
 - 23 Urge on
 - 24 Milwaukee product
 - 25 Bird dog
 - 26 Donizetti opera
 - 27 Box up
 - 28 Consumer
 - 29 Triad
 - 30 Swiss city
 - 31 Las Vegas game



Yesterday's Answer

- 1 Satan's alter ego
- 2 Tall one's nickname
- 3 Chinese dynasty
- 4 Grady
- 5 Gaggles
- 6 Members
- 7 Earnings boost
- 8 Change
- 9 Memorize
- 10 Roof
- 11 covering
- 12 'Ay, there's the —

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE — Here's how to work it:

A X Y D L B A A X R

is LONGFELLOW

One letter simply stands for another. In this sample A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all clues. Each day the code letters are different.

CRYPTOQUOTES

W P Q J R D T C V G Y Q T J B

C J F R W B I Q J D L B A Y G R Q

Q X B B J W D B W J D L

Yesterday's Cryptquote: DON'T COMMISERATE WITH YOUR FELLOW MAN. HELP HIM. — SOURCE UNKNOWN

Believe It or Not!



Contract Bridge

B. Jay Becker

Bidding Quiz

You are South and the bidding has gone:

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠KQ2 ♠AK QJ3 ♣KQ76

2. ♠KQ64 ♠K7 Q A ♣AQ82

3. ♠AK53 ♠Q43 QJ ♣AKJ74

4. ♠AQJ2 ♠— ♣AQ64 ♣AQ43

1. Two notrump. Partner's one notrump rebid over one spade is somewhat ambiguous. It may range from a poor hand without spade support to a good hand with, say, 10 points. By raising to two notrump, you indicate a balanced hand containing probably 17 or 18 high-card points, and thus invite partner to go on to three notrump.

2. Two clubs over one notrump would misstate your balanced distribution and would also fail to identify your 18 high-card points. You can't very well bid two hearts with only two trumps, even though they are of the highest quality.

3. Three spades. With 18 high-card points of the quick variety, and exceptionally good distribution, you should express your game prospects very forcibly. The jump-rebid describes your high-card power and, at the same time, describes your distribution.

By identifying the five-card spade length — you couldn't

have only four spades or you'd have to have your head examined — North is informed that you also have at least five clubs, since otherwise you would not have bid clubs first.

3. Three hearts. You should press hard for game despite your rather minimum trump support. A two heart bid would be proper if you had a king less; as it is, though, you can show your actual values with a three heart bid.

4. A rebid of three clubs would conceal your heart support and would also fail to pinpoint the singleton diamond. North may feel disappointed by your trump support if he bids four hearts, but you have other treasures to compensate for your "heart failure."

4. Two diamonds. Your diamonds are certainly not belfy, but the situation calls for identification of your distribution and would also fail to identify your 18 high-card points. You can't very well bid two hearts with only two trumps, even though they are of the highest quality.

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ARAB NEWS CALENDAR

PRAYER TIMES

Monday	Fajr	Ishraq	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghreb	Isha
Mecca	5:08	6:25	12:34	3:59	6:36	8:08
Medina	5:06	6:20	12:35	4:01	6:37	8:07
Nejd	4:37	6:55	12:04	3:30	6:07	7:37

DHAHRAN TV

4:30 Children's Show
6:30 George Kirby Show
6:54 Welcome Back Kotter
7:25 Rickford Files
8:15 NFL Football

Sesame Street: No. 1082
Nancy Wilson
Kotter For Vice Principal
Rattler's Class Of 63
Highlights: No. 12,
Minn. Vs. L.A.

WEATHER

Forecast for the next 24 hours:

Considerable drop in the temperatures over the central and eastern regions where surface winds will blow northerly at moderate to active speed raising dust and sands. A concentration of low clouds may cause thundershowers over those regions. Further decline in the temperatures is expected over the northern and western regions. Sea conditions are light to moderate in the territorial waters.

Sunday's temperatures (maximum, minimum in centigrade)

Mecca	35	25	Tahuk	26	13
Jeddah	34	23	Al-Jauf	22	10
Riyadh	36	23	Turnif	20	07
Dhahran	31	22	Rafha	26	13
Medina	34	20	Bisha	32	18
Taif	30	15	Abha	25	11

SAUDI RADIO

Afternoon Transmission
2:00 Opening
2:01 The Holy Quran
2:05 Gems of Guidance
2:10 S.A. — Historical Notes
2:20 On Islam
2:30 Hits in Germany
3:00 NEWS
3:10 Press Review
3:15 Music
3:20 Islamic Activities
3:30 Leaps and Bounds
3:40 Music
3:50 Close Down

Evening Transmission
10:00 Opening
10:01 The Holy Quran
10:05 Meccage to the Faithful
10:10 Light Music
10:15 NEWS
10:25 S.A. — A Daily Chronicle
10:30 Melody Makers
11:00 Youth Welfare
11:10 Music
11:15 Hot Rock
11:45 The Golden Age
12:00 Imp. Com & Recollections
12:10 Music
12:15 Mood Music
12:45 A Rendezvous with Dreams
01:00 Close Down

VOA

P.M.
8:00 News Roundup:
Reports: Actualities:
Opinion; Analyses
8:30 Dateline
News Summary
Special English:
News; Feature, The
Making of a Nation
News Summary
9:30 Music USA:
(Standards)
0:00 News Roundup:
Reports: Actualities

10:05 Opinion: Analyses
News Summary
10:30 VOA Magazine:
America; Science;
Cultural; Letter
11:00 Special English; News
11:30 Music USA: (Jazz)
VOA WORLD REPORT
Midnight
12:00 News newsmakers:
voices correspondents
reports background
features media comments
news analyses.

BBC

Morning Transmission
8:00 World News
8:09 Twenty-Four Hours
News Summary
8:30 *Sarah Ward
8:45 World Today
9:00 Newsdesk
9:30 *Opera Star
10:00 World News
10:09 Twenty-Four Hours
News Summary
10:30 *Sarah Ward
10:45 *Something to Show
You
11:00 World News
11:09 Reflections
11:15 Piano Style
11:30 Brain of Britain 1978
12:00 World News
12:09 British Press Review
12:15 World Today
12:30 Financial News
12:40 Look Ahead
12:45 The Tony Myatt
Request Show
Evening Transmission
1:15 Ulster in Focus
1:30 Discovery
2:00 World News
2:09 News about Britain
2:15 Alphabet of
Musical Curios
2:30 Sports International
2:40 Radio Newsreel
3:15 Promenade Concert
3:45 Sports Round-up
4:00 World News
4:09 Twenty-Four Hours:
News Summary

4:30 The Pleasure's Yours
5:15 Report on Religion
6:00 Radio Newsreel
6:15 *Outlook
7:00 World News
7:09 Commentary
7:15 *Sherlock Holmes
7:45 World Today
8:00 World News
8:09 *Books and Writers
8:30 *Take One
8:45 Sports Round-up
9:00 World News
9:09 News about Britain
9:15 Radio Newsreel
9:30 Farming World
10:00 Outlook News
Summary
10:39 Stock Market Report
10:43 Look Ahead
10:45 Ulster in Focus
11:00 World News
11:09 Twenty-Four Hours:
News Summary
11:30 The Pleasure's Yours
Midnight Transmission
12:15 Talkabout
12:45 Nature
Notebook
1:00 World News
1:09 World Today
1:25 Financial News
1:35 Book Choice
1:40 Reflections
1:45 Sports Round-up
2:00 World News
2:09 Commentary
2:15 The Face of England

Your Individual Horoscope



Frances Drake

FOR MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1979

What kind of day will tomorrow be? To find out what the stars say, read the forecast given for your birth sign.

SIGN.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19)

It will take you awhile before you get back into the groove of everyday routine. You may prefer to work from behind-the-scenes.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20)

Don't let socializing keep you from work that needs to be done. A change of plans proves to be a blessing in disguise. Go with it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)

Too many lions in the fire may lead to muddled thinking. By day's end, you'll find that hard work is your safest bet for success.

CANCER (June 21 to July 21)

Travel plans are subject to change. Communication with those able to revise plans to your satisfaction.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 22)

Financial affairs are tricky now. It will take your full concentration to straighten things out, but you'll find success by day's end.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

"He loves me, he loves me not" is the theme of the day. By nightfall, you'll know

where you stand. Sharing thoughts leads to a happy ending.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

Your daily routine seems full of problems, yet, if you'll keep plugging, things work out to your advantage and possible financial benefit.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

You seem hesitant and uncertain about a romantic situation. In the p.m., you'll find the right answers. Prepare for good times.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

Problems at home require immediate action. What seems like an unpleasant surprise turns out favorably. Avoid p.m. arguments.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

An unfulfilled promise, unexpected news, and gossip are likely. Still, you can express yourself to good advantage. Seek kindred minds in the p.m.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

Like the stock market, your financial picture fluctuates now. By day's end, though, you'll have a good closing average. Use initiative.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20)

You may be uncertain about the impression you make on others. Later, your self-confidence improves and you're making plans for the future.

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PASSPORT LOST

Pakistani Passport number not known issued at Karachi belonging to Mrs. Halima Haji Taiyeb, including her two sons names (Mohd. Rafiq & Abdul Aziz) has been lost in Mecca. Finder please deliver it to Pakistan Embassy—Jeddah or P.O.Box: 6300—Jeddah.

PASSPORT LOST

German Passport No. E-2715492 issued at Nurnberg on 10.3.77 to Mr. Selbach Ulrich Fritz has been lost. Finder please deliver it to German Embassy—Jeddah.

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TWO ROLLALONG CARAVANS, EACH 2/3 BERTH. 1977 MODELS, UNPOWERED, FULLY FURNISHED. 22 FT LONG SR. 35,000/- 18 FT LONG SR. 25,000/-

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For information call: Jeddah 56321 between: 1800 - 2000 hrs

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VILLA DELUX in a good area north Al Musadia Al Hamra beside Sands Hotel. Consists of 3 bedrooms, salon, dining room & living room, one room for the servant Contact: Tel: 41456

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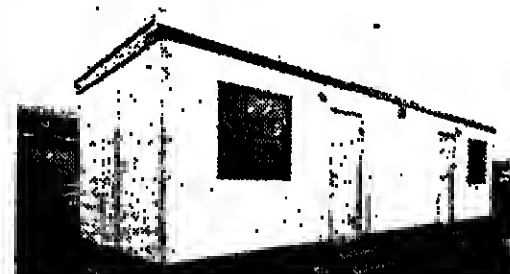
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HONG KONG ISLAND SHIPPING

NGAN CHAU

Voy: 4-79

The above vessel
arrived at Jeddah on
25th March

Consignees are kindly
requested to take
delivery of their cargo

For any further information
please contact:

ALATAS AGENCIES

P.O. Box 4,

Tel: 28333-28529-28779-43350

Telex: 401009 ALSHIP SJ.

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Highly skilled in steel erection Work presently working in Jeddah SHALL be available to commence work in April May or June 79.

Parties interested to know details and negotiate a sub contract may contact. Tel: 76807 P.O. Box 5876 During 9a.m.-12.30 p.m. 5p.m.-9p.m.

Al Abeer Establishment Jeddah Saudi Arabia



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Establishment
for Machinery

announces to all customers that they are moving their main office from Boghdadiyah to new location — Medina Road Kilo 6 New Telephone No. 52138 — Jeddah.

ABDULLAH ESTABLISHMENT FOR TRADING & INDUSTRY agent for MESSINA LINE notice to consignees

Jolly Marrone Voy- 65

The above vessel will arrive at Jeddah Islamic port on 26-3-1979. / 29-4-1399

Consignees are kindly requested to timely arrange for the documents necessary for clearing and withdraw their delivery orders (against submission of original bill of lading or bank guarantee) upon vessel's arrival.

For more information.

please contact Jeddah. P.O. Box: 5, Tel: 24879-42553. Telex: 401504 Faisalna. Cable: Faisalna.



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Knew of newspaper funding, ex-minister says

Connie Mulder implicates Vorster in Pretoria scandal

JOHANNESBURG, March 25 (R) — Disgraced former Cabinet Minister Connie Mulder Sunday broke silence on South Africa's "slush funds" scandal, implicating President and former Premier John Vorster and Finance Minister Owen Horwood.

The main point in Mulder's statement was an allegation that Vorster and Horwood both knew of the government's secret funding of the pro-government newspaper, the "Citizen", long before they have admitted they did.

The "Citizen" project, code-named "Annemarie," is central to the scandal which has become known as "Muldergate," after Mulder.

He was information minister at the time his department was spending and in some cases misappropriating millions of rand earmarked for secret schemes to improve the government's image at home and abroad.

When the news began to leak the department was disbanded and Mulder, by then minister for plural relations, was forced to resign from the cabinet and his seat in parliament.



John Vorster
His statement Sunday followed a meeting with Vorster on Wednesday. Vorster issued a statement on Thursday defending himself and accusing the fugitive former Information Department Secretary Eschel Rhoodie of telling lies about him.

Specifically Vorster said that the first he knew of government funding for the "Citizen" was in

Connie Mulder
August 1977.

Mulder said Sunday that he and Vorster had discussed the "Citizen" as far back as December 1976, when they decided to change its format from broadsheet to tabloid.

There was no immediate reaction from Vorster to Mulder's statement.

But his successor as prime

Hendrick van den Bergh
minister, Pieter Botha, told the South African Press Association news agency that alleged ministerial fore-knowledge of the "Citizen" affair and other "irregularities" were being examined by a judicial commission which would report on this aspect of the scandal by the end of this month.

Botha said he would withhold

Pieter Botha
comment until then.

Mulder's bombshell statement to the press came as opposition parties in parliament prepared an unprecedented campaign to impeach Vorster.

The first move will come with the presentation of a parliamentary petition Monday asking the speaker of the House of Assembly (lower house) to set up a committee to consider the president's conduct.

If the petition attracts the required 30 signatures, which the opposition concedes is unlikely, at least in the short term, the committee would report its findings to the whole of Parliament, which would then decide whether to remove the president from office.

Mulder said in his statement: "I wish to state categorically that Dr. Rhoodie (who was secretary for information, the department's top civil servant) reported regularly from time to time to three ministers about the department's secret projects.

"At certain of these occasions, publications were shown to illustrate the work. At these occasions projects were sometimes evaluated and it was decided whether or not to proceed with them.

"The prime minister, the minister of finance and myself were present, while Gen. Hendrick van den Bergh (former state security chief) was also there on at least two occasions.

"Such meetings were held, for example, on Oct. 23, 1974 at 4.30 p.m. in the prime minister's office, on Oct. 1, 1975, at 9 a.m. in the prime minister's office, on Oct. 26, 1977, from 2.30 to 4.30 in the prime minister's conference room....

"At the last two meetings mentioned, Sen. Horwood was present as minister of finance."

Referring to the "Citizen" project, Mulder said, "everything is agreed that Mr. Vorster, with knowledge of the intended founding of the newspaper, forbade neither myself nor the officials of the department who were

involved from going ahead with it."

Mulder said that by issuing the statement he was not seeking revenge for his enforced retirement — which was ordered by Botha — or protection from any further action.

"I am sorry that I now have to publish these facts in this way," Mulder said.

"I really believe that there has been enough speculation now about the affair and that I, as the minister concerned, owe it to the public to reveal the truth without regard to personalities.

"For almost a year I have kept silence in spite of all the accusations and hoped that the matter would clear itself up. The events of the last couple of days have forced me to give the facts regardless of the consequences.

"South Africa deserves that this matter should now end and that the persons concerned should bury the hatchet and find a joint solution. It has lasted long enough."

Botha has publicly pledged to resign and call an election if it is proved that any member of his cabinet had prior knowledge of the "Citizen" scandal or other Information Department irregularities.

Speculation rose this weekend that with mounting allegations regarding Horwood's role, the prime minister might well go to the polls before September.

Nationwide curfew imposed

Uganda closes airport against Tanzanian advance

LONDON, March 25 (Agencies) — Ugandan authorities Sunday imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew on the country and closed its main airport at Entebbe, Radio Uganda announced.

The radio, monitored in London, said any aircraft violating Ugandan airspace would be shot down.

According to diplomats in Nairobi, Tanzanian troops and armed Ugandan exiles have been advancing towards Kampala and Libyan troops who were guarding Entebbe were reported to have disappeared.

Radio Uganda said the Defense Council of President Idi Amin's government had declared that any citizen collaborating with or harboring the enemy would be treated as a traitor and would face the consequences.

Anyone violating the curfew or roadblock regulations would also be treated as a traitor regardless of

rank or position, the council said.

"People are warned not use electric light in full in their houses except in hospitals and with the permission of the authorities," the council said.

"Anybody found using full lights in their houses or other places will be dealt with according to the law governing the curfew."

The announcement said the curfew would run from 10 p.m. Sunday until 6 a.m. Monday, and would run from 6 p.m. thereafter.

Earlier Saturday, there were reports that advancing Tanzanian troops were shelling Entebbe.

The airport is Uganda's only

international civilian airport. Located 32 kilometers south of the capital, is also a military base.

A resident of Entebbe, contacted by telephone from Nairobi, said, "there were two or three bangs between 4 p.m. and 4.30 p.m., they seemed to be explosive rounds but we don't know what they were. They could have been Ugandan or Tanzanian."

There was no apparent damage and no evident military reaction. Life along the shore of Lake Victoria was calm, although "a few people are taking their families out."

A telephone call to Entebbe Airport to ask about the reports produced the response, "that is wrong. We don't know anything about it."

Tanzania and Uganda have been at war for five months. After Ugandan forces crossed into northwestern Tanzania in late October and Amin claimed the

area for Uganda, Tanzanian troops counterattacked.

In recent weeks, Tanzanians and anti-Amin exiles have been steadily advancing on Kampala. They were last reported at Mitaka Maria, a village about 56 kilometers southwest of the city.

Italian deputy premier

Ugo la Malfa near death

ROME, March 25 (R) — Italian Deputy Premier Ugo la Malfa remained gravely ill and in a coma Sunday and there was little hope of saving his life.

"His condition is again very serious, and this new decline cannot allow us to hope that he will survive longer," his doctor said in a statement.

The 75-year-old Republican Party leader, one of Italy's most respected politicians, suffered a massive cerebral haemorrhage early Saturday, just three days after being appointed vice-premier and minister for economic planning in Giulio Andreotti's new government.

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From page one

OPEC

taking advantage of the tight oil supply situation caused by the Iranian revolution, have said they will raise their price even further. This increase is generally pegged

at nine per cent, bringing the price close to \$ 14.54 a barrel it is scheduled to reach Oct. 1 under the pricing plan approved by OPEC at its last meeting in December.

These independent price increases, which have been approved in principle by OPEC, have raised questions about the need for a benchmark crude, especially Arabian Light, Saudi light had been picked because it was so plentiful, but it is getting scarcer, especially since Iran cut its production in half following the revolution.

Sadat

of military equipment would only begin next week.

Israel is expected to start its evacuation first from the El Arish area, which is due to be returned to Egypt three months after the signing of the treaty.

Yemen

after the border fighting erupted between North and South Yemen. However, a ceasefire was declared last week.

Pentagon officials, who asked not to be named, said Saturday that the higher personnel figure would only be reached if it is

decided to station in North Yemen all 135 contracted civilian employees involved with the U.S. arms shipment.

Military officials also said the maximum number of U.S. military technicians, specialists and members of the attaché's office in North Yemen will be 94.

Gromyko

threatened Middle East and world peace.

Arafat also criticized Saturday Carter's offer to work directly with the PLO if it recognized Israel.

But the statement issued by the PLO's foreign relations bureau in Beirut fell short of rejecting the American offer that was made three days before the treaty was to be signed.

Why does Carter always ask the Palestinian victim to recognize the Israeli aggressor and

usurper?" Arafat's statement said. "Why doesn't he ask the aggressor to recognize the victim?"

The statement was issued as the PLO Executive Committee held a series of sessions to map out a strategy on how to seek pan-Arab sanctions against Egypt for signing the treaty.

The sanctions issue is due to come up before a conference in Baghdad by the foreign and finance ministers of the Arab League Tuesday.

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Thursday	- Cold Buffet - Couscous Lebanese Style
Friday	- Cold Buffet - Mouloukiyeh with Chicken

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المكتب التجاري العام

HOTEL

Boom in hotel industry

New decrees control business

By Elias Haddad

With more than 8,000 hotel rooms at present, an additional 20,000 rooms will be built in the next four years — a development that indicates the expanding hotel industry in Saudi Arabia. Three first class hotels have opened for business in the Eastern province and this year another three first class hotels will be completed in Jeddah.

Several other major hotel plans are on drawing board throughout the Kingdom.

The boom in hotel industry enjoys encouragement from both private and public sectors. The state grants Saudi investors loans of 50 per cent with a ceiling of SR50 million for hotel building.

To help raise the standard of hotels the Hotel Department of the Ministry of Commerce sends Saudi students abroad for training in cooperation with local hotels and without any cost to the hotel owners.

The Hotel Department, the sole agency which issues licenses for hotels, also controls prices and draws up specifications and regulations for the various categories of hotels.

To make certain that regulations of the Ministry of Commerce are in force, the Department carries out regular and surprise inspections on hotel facilities, cleanliness and the application of official fares and other regulations.

Penalties for violators of the law can be expensive. They run up to SR10,000 in fines and hotels may be closed temporarily or for good, depending on the nature of the violation.

The Department also keeps in contact with international agencies involved in the hotel business to gain more experience and expertise.

It actively encourages citizens to invest in the hotel sector and concentrates on improving existing hotel facilities; encourages the construction of new hotels; and building up local expertise in the field.

The latest action the Department took regarding hotel business was on March 16.

Following are the unofficial translation of two ministerial decrees and terms and specifications of hotel suites:

Department of Hotels,
Ministerial Order No. 1324, dated 22.3.1399 H
In cognizance of the hotels regulation issued vide Royal Decree No. M/27 dated 11.4.95H, the Ministerial Order No. 389, dated

17.9.1396H regarding the general bases for rates fixed for stay in various categories of hotels and the Ministerial Order No. 228 dated 12.8.1398 H regarding the terms and specifications of the categories of hotels; and in the public interest.

The Minister of Commerce, with all the powers vested in him, issues the following order:

Article (1): The accompanying schedule concerning the terms and specifications of hotel suites shall be enforced.

Article (2): The existing hotels shall adjust the conditions of their suites in accordance with the terms and specifications accompanying this order within a period specified by the Department of Hotels, which will determine the conditions of the suites after the expiry of the grace period.

Article (3): This order shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come in force March 16 from the date of its publication. The Director General of the Department of Hotels shall be liable for its implementations.

Minister of Commerce Soliman Al-Solaiman

Memorandum to the Ministerial Order No. 1324 dated 22.3.99H.

The Ministerial Order No. 389 dated 17.9.1396 H was issued to specify the class and category of hotel establishments and the terms and specifications to be fulfilled by each category and class of hotels. It was amended by the Ministerial Order No. 228 dated 12.8.1398H in conformity with the latest developments in the hotel industry.

The terms and specifications indicated the number of suites to be available in every class and category of hotels, but its details and contents were left to each hotel, depending on usual international specifications for the suites in every class and category of hotels.

But the practical experience has proved that, in order to get specific rates for stay in suites, some hotels resorted to transforming some of their rooms into suites, by putting screens in the room to use one portion as bedroom and the other as salon, without any regard to fulfilling the normal requirements of a suite from the aspect of its area, contents and furnishings. Likewise, some other hotels prepared suites with specifications quite different from the normal requirements of suites, which created irregularity if the normal rates of suites were applied to them.

Therefore, the Department decided to straighten the matter by specifying the minimum requirements for the normal kinds of suites, which should be available in the special suites. This has been done to

prevent some hotels from trying to obtain specific rates for the suites and to give them their right in case they prepared special suites.

In conformity with the Department's indication, a draft ministerial resolution was prepared containing the terms and specifications of the normal suites. These are two kinds of suites — large and small — with different terms and specifications in accordance with the class of the hotel. The draft ministerial order referred to the general bases for rates in fixing the rates of normal suites, and fixed the rates of special suites in accordance with the condition of each of them separately.

In order to enforce the provisions of article 8, 12/C of the Regulation of Hotels issued vide Royal Decree No. M/27, dated 11.4.1395, and Article 10 and 11 of the executive statute of the Regulation of Hotels issued vide Ministerial Order No. 1375 dated 18.4.1397H, the Department of Hotels has prepared the accompanying draft ministerial order, for favor of taking measures toward its issuance.

Director General of the Department of Hotels Abdul Aziz Al-Jasser

Terms and Specifications of hotel suites

Special Suites:

The de luxe and first class hotels should have special suites and should fulfill the following terms and specifications. The rates of stay shall in these suites be fixed in accordance with their individual condition and the class and category of the hotel, and further in accordance with the provisions of Article 15, clause C of the Hotels Regulation and Article 11 of the executive statute.

Following are the terms and specifications of special suites:

1. Two bedrooms each with a private bath.
2. One salon with a private bath.
3. Dining Hall with attached washbasins.
4. An Office.
5. Buffet for the preparation of food and soft drinks.
6. Total area not less than 160 sq. meters.
7. De Luxe quality of furniture, furnishings, decor and lighting.

Ordinary Suites:

The ordinary suites shall be of two types — large and small — each with their own terms and specifications in accordance with the class of hotel. The rates of these suites shall be fixed in accordance with the general bases of rates mentioned in schedule No. 3 appended to the Ministerial Order No. 389, dated 17.9.1396H.

Terms and Specifications of ordinary suites as per class of hotels:

De Luxe class:

The furnishings, furniture and decor should correspond to the terms and specifications of the de luxe hotels, as envisaged in the schedule attached to the Ministerial Order No. 228, dated 12.8.1398H, in addition to the following terms:

Large Suite:

1. Two bedrooms each with a private bath.
2. Salon and office with a private bath.
3. Total area should not be less than 96 sq. meters.

First Class:

The furnishings, furniture and decor should correspond to the terms and specifications of the First Class hotels, as envisaged in the schedule attached to the Ministerial Order No. 228, dated 12.8.1398H, in addition to the following terms:

Large Suite:

1. Two bedrooms each with a private bath.
2. Salon with a private bath.
3. Total area should not be less than 84 sq. meters.

Small Suite:

1. Bedroom with a private bath.
2. Salon with a private bath.
3. Total area should not be less than 56 sq. meters.

Second Class:

The furnishings, furniture and decor should correspond to the terms and specifications of the Second Class hotels, as envisaged in the schedule attached to the Ministerial Order No. 228, dated 12.8.1398H, in addition to the following terms:

Large Suite:

1. Two bedrooms with a private bath.
2. Salon with a private bath.
3. Total area should not be less than 72 sq. meters.

Small Suite:

1. Bedroom.
2. Salon.
3. Private Bath.
4. Total area should not be less than 48 sq. meters.

Sheraton commands view of mountains

By Farouk Luqman

"I believe that the Sheraton is the fastest growing luxury-class hotel chain in the Middle East. This is based on the number of hotels in operation, those under construction and those in the planning stages," said Fuad A. Fawaz, director of sales and public relations Sheraton Saudi Arabia.

The Sheraton hotel corporation recently opened a luxury hotel in Al-Hada, 15 kilometers from Taif, to be one of the finest in the world, at a cost of SR 250 million. It is located on the mountains and stands on a crop of rocks surrounding a magnificent view of the Taif mountains at an altitude of 2,000 meters which makes it a year-round resort. It is luxuriously furnished and deco-

rated for it will be used in part to accommodate prominent foreign visitors to the Kingdom. One of its main features is a colossal chandelier made up of 500 pieces of luminescent colored crystals, weighing two tons and hanging from the top of the ceiling in the middle of the hexagonal core, on top of the fountain. The hotel has five guest room floors in three wings emerging from the hexagonal core and 78 guest rooms, 6 suites and 2 royal apartments with the ultimate in furniture and decor. Each floor has its own lobby with deluxe leather armchairs and seating arrangements. Each royal apartment has two bedrooms, one living room, one dining room, parlor, office and kitchen. The hotel has a coffee shop, Le Palms for snacks, a gourmet restaurant, Al-Ghadir,

on the seventh floor, two conference rooms, one large VIP room, one banquet room for dinners and weddings for two hundred persons. Unlike many other hotels, Sheraton Al-Hada has a beautiful Mosque on its grounds. The hotel also boasts a swimming pool, sauna and health club all of which are located in a garden.

Sheraton Jeddah is different. It will have 563 rooms, 14 big suites, 48 small suites and conference facilities for up to 300 persons.

Sheraton Jeddah is owned by Sheikh Wahbi Tahlawi and is estimated to have cost SR300 million.

It commands a convenient location as it is almost smack in the center of town and close to the present airport. One of its unique features is the 499 NCR computer

which will handle all the book-keeping, reservations, billing and the rest of the hotel administrative services on the basis of the latest techniques. Guests will be able to dial directly from their rooms, local or overseas numbers through an ITT standard exchange.

The hotel will offer all services associated with five-star hotels — a swimming pool on the third floor, covered parking for 100 cars, specialty restaurant, coffee shop, barbecue, snack lounge, TV-video in all rooms, 24 hours service, etc.

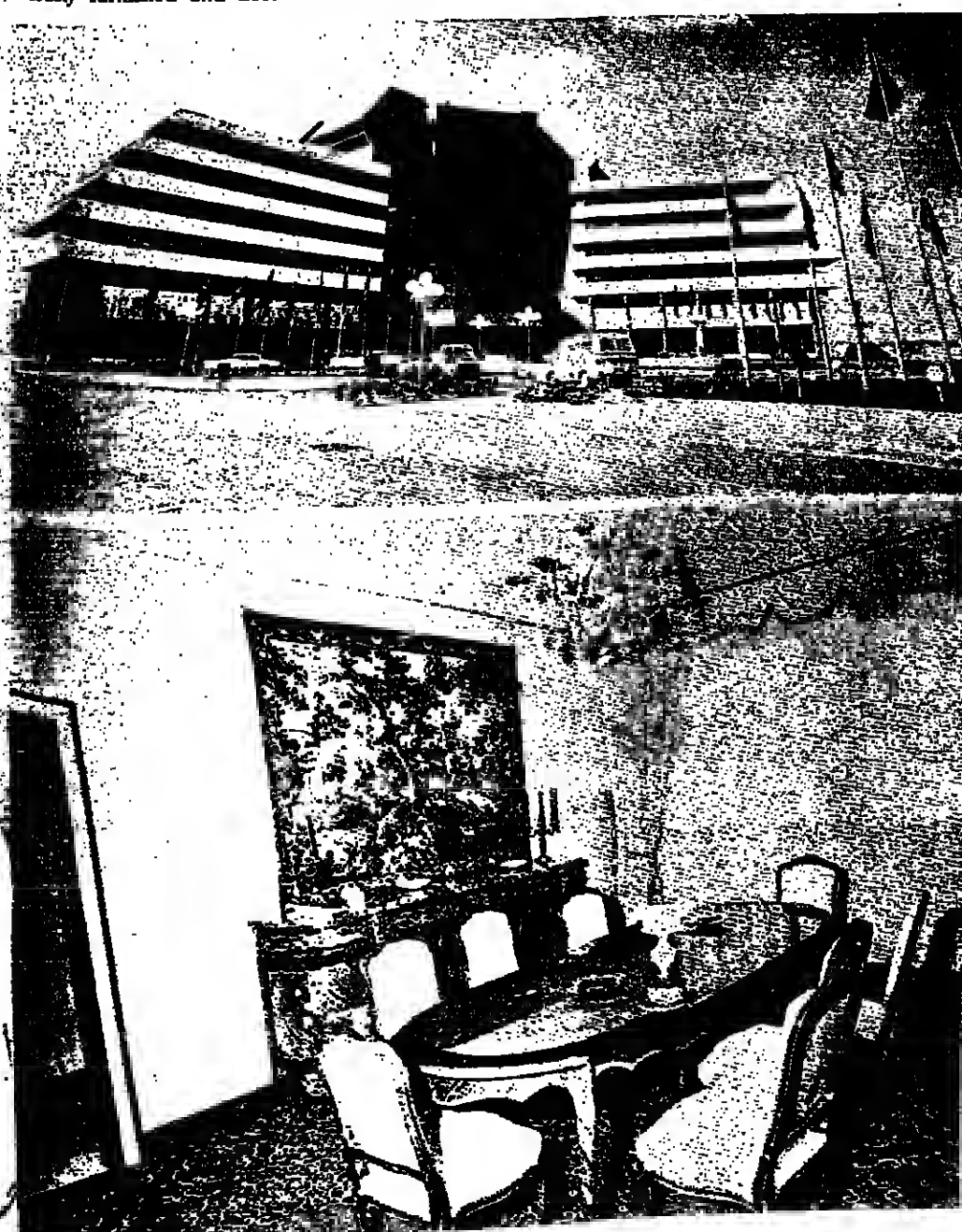
Fuad Fawaz is confident that the Sheraton will soon become the leading luxury hotel in Saudi Arabia. "We have had a lot of experience in the Middle East," he said. The Sheraton is number one hotel in Kuwait, Dubai, Cairo and Damascus despite the competition. In Dubai the Sheraton enjoys an 85 per cent occupancy although it is only nine months old while its main competition there has only 65 per cent despite its three year seniority.

Fawaz said there are two hotels in the planning stages. One will be built in Riyadh in the 400-room range and another major hotel will be built in the eastern province. Both should be ready by 1980. Other hotels will be built in Medina and Yanbu making the Sheraton the largest hotel chain in Saudi Arabia.

In its drive to build more hotels in the Middle East the Sheraton is planning hotels in Egypt where they already have two — in the Hurgada area and in Alexandria along the Mediterranean coast. Also each of Abu Dhabi, Baghdad, Basra, Muscat, Sanaa, and Doha, Qatar has a Sheraton. By 1980 the Middle East will represent a substantial part of the Sheraton chain worldwide which now includes 400 hotels.

Fawaz said that in a few years hotels in Saudi Arabia will be able to compete with the best in the world on the basis of service. But he did not agree with an interviewer that the price range for five-star luxury hotels here is exorbitant. Prices, he said are fixed by the government. The cost of construction, management and operation are also high. At present it is \$ 150,000 per room to build a luxury hotel. It was higher in the case of the luxurious Hada Sheraton because of the number of villas attached to the main hotel and the high level of construction involved.

Al-Rashed Engineering and the Contractors, Saudi-Oger, performed a minor miracle when they created a totally operational hotel exactly six months after the ground breaking date.



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Hotel restaurants offer diverse 'specials'

By Barry Reynolds

One effect of the building boom in the Eastern Province has been the proliferation of new hotels and the resultant scramble among hotel restaurants for steady patrons. Consequently, hotel restaurants and coffee shops are seeking to attract diners with the addition of specialized menus, luncheon buffets and weekly 'events' to their regular menus.

Typifying this trend is Al-Khobar's Algosaihi Hotel, now offering the most diverse menu attractions anywhere in the Eastern region. Their popular buffet luncheon, held daily from noon till 3 p.m., features a wide selection of continental and oriental dishes, including roast lamb, turkey, steak and kidney pie, curried and fresh fish dishes, hors d'oeuvres and sweets. The price of the buffet is SR40, excluding 15 % service charge and the popular luncheon is presently serving 175 persons daily.

Beginning March 1, and continuing every alternate Thursday, the Algosaihi will hold a patio barbecue for SR 40, per person. It will begin at 7:30 p.m. and last until 11 p.m. — weather permitting. It will include assorted appetizers, barbecued U.S. steak, chicken, sausage and lamb. A baked potato and freshly tossed salad is also included in the price. On this night regular hotel patrons can forego the barbecue and order the usual a la carte dishes if they wish.

Algosaihi's food and beverage manager, John Murphy, says that the barbecue will be able to accommodate 400 persons comfortably. He emphasizes that the hotel's three large outdoor grills ensure that patrons won't have to wait in line.

Equally popular has been Algosaihi's Thursday evening buffet, held in the coffee shop from 7-11 p.m. This 50-ryal buffet offers a wide range of

d'oeuvres (including lobster tails and mezzes), and cold hamour, as well as fresh, stuffed hamour, prime rib of beef, lamb cutlets, turkey, cold duck and a variety of sweets baked daily, along with hot bread in the hotel pastry kitchen.

Another Algosaihi attraction—opening March 15—is the international rooftop restaurant. It will employ French-style service and feature caviar, veal and U.S. beef specialties from 6:30-11 p.m. nightly.

For those budget-watchers, the Algosaihi offers a curry lunch in the coffee shop every Friday from noon till 3 p.m. for SR 35, as well as a Friday brunch from 11 a.m. till 2 p.m. for both hotel guests and outside patrons.

Boasting the largest banqueting facilities in the Kingdom, the Algosaihi has captured the lion's share of this area's large weddings. Up to 3,000 wedding guests can be accommodated at once and the hotel handles an average of five of these monthly. It is not unusual to see a dozen freshly-slaughtered sheep in the hotel's huge kitchen and 11-tiered wedding cakes are a specialty of head chef, Morsi El-Hawi.

An additional restaurant, located adjacent to the Algosaihi's swimming pool, serves meals exclusively to hotel guests for considerably less money than the hotel's other restaurants.

For SR65, local diners can enjoy a sumptuous seafood buffet every Saturday evening in the Falcon Restaurant of the Dhahran Ramada Hotel. From 6:30 till 10:45 p.m. this spacious, tastefully-furnished dining room offers an ample selection of fresh, seasonal seafood. Offerings include fresh barmour, mackerel, tuna, shrimp, lobster and red and white snapper. Sauces range from Hollandais to Veloute, while the dessert selection includes eclairs, chocolate and strawberry mousse, cakes and trifles.

Ramada also serves a business-man's buffet daily from 11:30 a.m. till 2:30 p.m. for SR 40. The hot dishes and soups change daily and hotel chef, Nigel Saunders says that the menu includes both continental and oriental items.

In addition, Ramada holds a Lobster Night on Mondays from 6:30 till 10:45 p.m. in addition to its regular a la carte menu. The former special features a choice of one of four lobster dishes for SR45, each. The dishes are: lobster mornay, lobster thermidor, lobster madras (curry) and lobster belle view, (cold lobster slices served on russian salad in the shell).

The Dammam Hotel in that city enjoys a well-earned reputation for fine Indian cuisine. The daily buffet (noon till 2:30 p.m.) specializes in tandoori dishes of chicken, shish kebab, mutton and beef as well as tandoori roti and tikka.

Tandoori consists of meat morsels, pasted with a variety of Indian an aromatic spices and baked in yogurt. The dish was handed down from the age of the Grand Moghuls and is still baked in clay ovens at the Dammam Hotel. For SR 45 one can enjoy a daily luncheon buffet of these typically Indian selections.

Chicken tikka features mildly spiced chicken morsels while shish kebab is a mincemeat koftas with Indian spices, particularly masalas. Bara Kebab is an authentic Moghul variation on the tandoori kebab plate.

Individual a la carte tandoori dishes range in price from SE30-45, and can be ordered at any time during the day until 10:30 p.m. The Dammam Hotel is located beside the sea, after the third traffic light from the stadium along First Street.

While the Carleton Al-Moaibed Hotel in Al-Khobar has earned a solid reputation for its continental-style service and

European fare, it also enjoys wide support for its Lebanese cuisine. Mezzes (appetizers) such as kebbeh, tabouleh and hummus are particular favorites.

The Carleton serves a special plat de jour for SR22 a la carte in the Gourmet Room daily from 11:30 a.m. till 3:30 p.m. Excellent a la carte fare is also available in the evenings from 6 p.m. till midnight, when patrons may dine by candlelight in the Gourmet Room. The Carleton's coffee shop is one of the few anywhere in the area open 24 hours. The hotel is located on the dual carriageway between Dammam and Al-Khobar near the new Eastern Province Sports City.

For those whose tastes run to Italian food, Al-Nimran Hotel restaurant in Al-Khobar will not disappoint. Staffed entirely by native Italians, the restaurant features a wide range of Italian dishes, including daily-fresh lasagna, ravioli, cannelloni, spaghetti, risotto and the chef's special, minestrone (vegetable a l'italiano) soup.

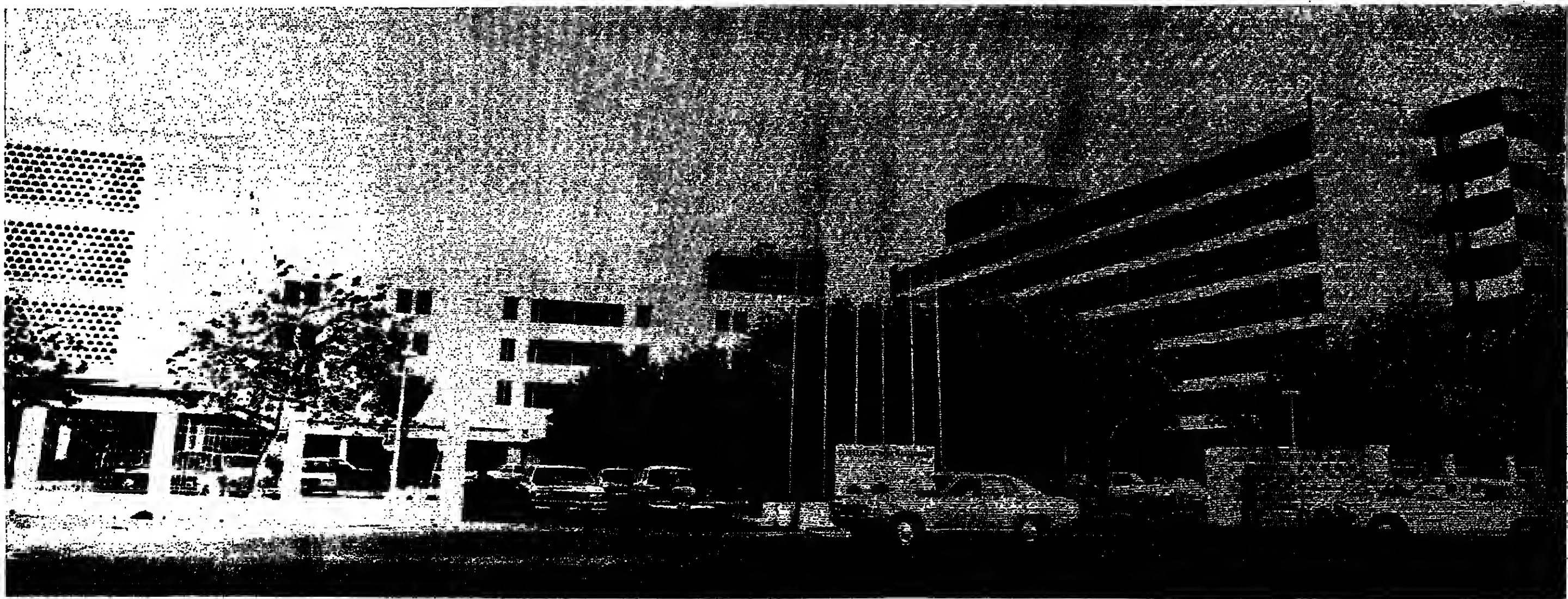
Milano-trained manager, Paolo Lattanza emphasized that the Al-Nimran restaurant "is the only one in the area that makes its own pastas daily."

"We don't use packaged or frozen pastas," he said, and our daily buffet from noon till 3 p.m. (SR40) features hot and cold native Italian dishes as well as non-Italian choices."

A wide selection of freshly-baked pizzas is also featured. Al-Nimran's a la carte dinner (6:30-11 p.m.) includes all of the dishes listed above.

So whether it's barbecued steak, caviar, lobster thermidor, Indian tandoori, shish-kebab, kapsa, kebbeh or lasagna, Eastern Province hotel restaurants are displaying a versatility worthy of the area's diverse clientele.

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Hotel growth in the Eastern Province

By Robert Fraga

Four years ago the Dhahran area disposed of approximately 345 first-class hotel rooms. Twenty-four months later, the number had risen to 680. Today there are of the order of 1,700 with at least 50 villas owned and rented by major hotels in Damman and El-Khobar. Two years hence one projection — based in part on rock-firm commitment and in part on speculation — calls for 3,500 rooms. Even if one allows for limited revision of plans and schedules, the growth pattern in the hotel industry of the Eastern Province is clear: A geometric progression with the number of available rooms doubling every two years.

Does business growth in the area justify such a boom? That question seems to be causing a good deal of anxiety in at least some hotel executive circles.

Two years ago the Eastern Province looked ripe for hotel expansion. The level of business in the area was high and hotel space scarce. One need only scratch the surface of the history of the modern Khan to uncover a litter of studies, some comic, some horrendous, of the difficulty of securing reservations at a good hotel and extending, at the last moment, one's stay there. The rush to build was on. But the explosion in the hotel construction business was out of phase with general development in the Eastern Province. While luxury palaces to accommodate the overnight — or overmonth — guest were rising at an unprecedented clip, business tapered off, then declined. What had been a seller's market became a buyer's paradise. The landscape was being transformed into a sort of Middle Eastern Miami Beach, with a vast selection of posh, near-posh, and ultra-posh hotels to choose among.

Inevitably competition quickened with the mushrooming of hotel capacity. Relations among the various hotels in the region appear to stay on an even keel, and one encounters examples of ways in which they co-operate to improve their individual service to their customers. But the pace of the race is there; a casual observer feels the edge of competition driving on hotel staffs to offer more efficient and increasingly lavish service to his inn's clientele.

The hotel industry has become big business in the tri-city complex of Dhahran-El-Khobar-

Damman. Eleven major hotels in the area employ between 1,800 and 2,000 persons. Top management posts are frequently held by Saudi, Lebanese, and British nationals. Staff and management at the Damman Hotel, one of the leading establishments of the area, is drawn from the Oberoi Group of India, Egypt, Lebanon, the Philippines, Yemen, Pakistan, and Indonesia are among the countries from which local hotels fill their employment roster.

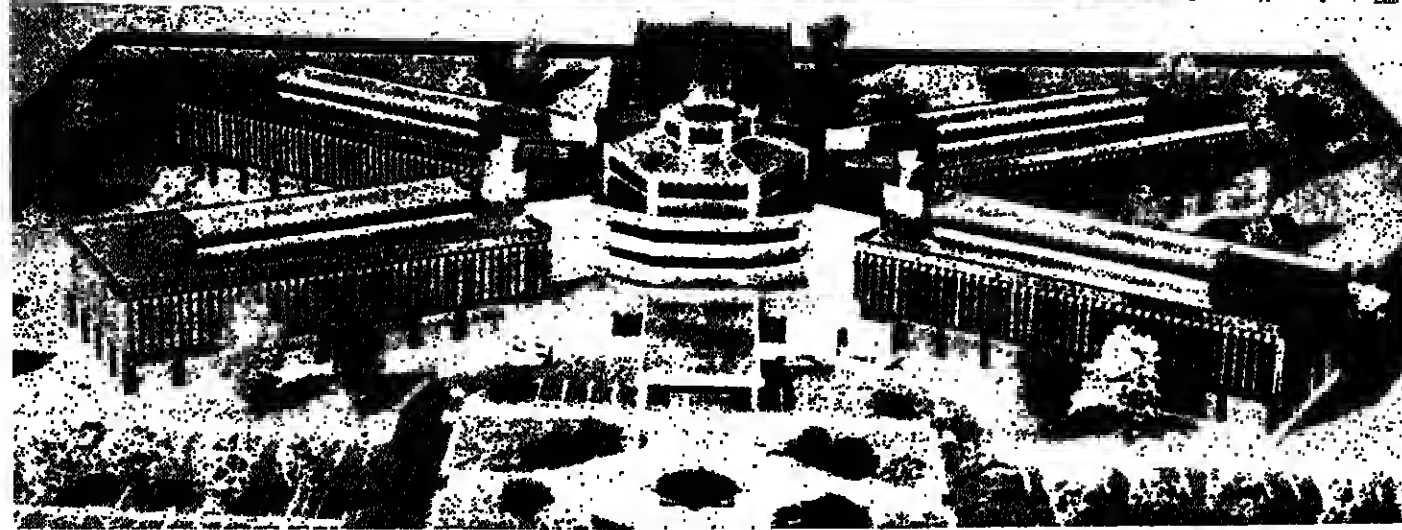
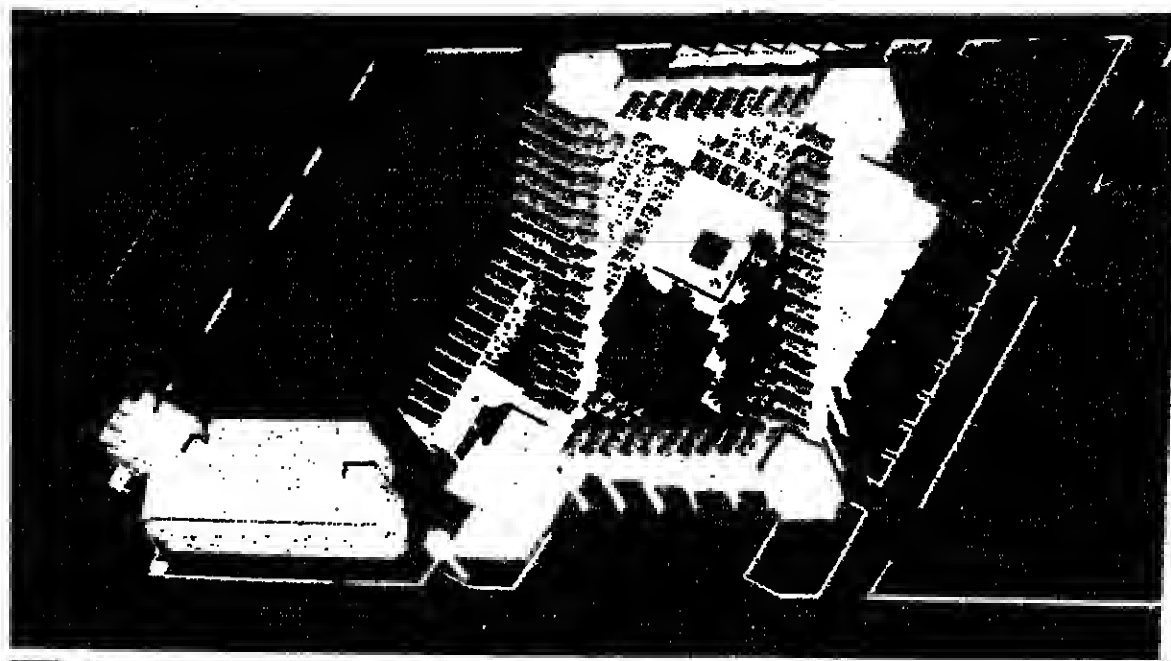
Ownership of the principal hotels in the Eastern Province is private or corporate with limited government participation. Management, however, is diverse. A Saudi-Lebanese company, HOTEXCO, manages the recently opened Al-Nemer in Damman; the same company will operate the El-Khobar Palace, scheduled for opening at the end of the month, and the Ambassador, which will open this summer, both in El-Khobar. The Royal Hotel, also in El-Khobar, is part of a chain which recently opened a hotel in Jeddah. Two other hotels in the chain are Beirut's Napoleon and Plaza.

Apart from the Oberoi Group, two other large hostellers are engaged in the Eastern Province: These are the Ramada Inn, which opened its doors in July, 1978, just outside the ARAMCO camp in Dhahran, and the Marriott which anticipates receiving guests into its 300-room premises in the Riyadh Road, a few kilometers from the Dhahran International Airport, on April 1, 1979.

Does association with a large chain offer advantages the independent hotels cannot hope to match?

It comes as no surprise to hear an executive of a chain-linked hotel express an affirmative opinion on the subject. Chains provide specific training programs for their staff which insure that employees are well-inducted into hotel policy. In the case of the independently operated hotel, procedure and conduct may reflect only the temper of the management on site. In an age of keen competition, association with an important chain certainly holds out the sort of security, both individual and corporate, which loners must compensate for with sharp wits and goodwill.

To what extent is the increasingly competitive market beginning to take its toll of profits and morale among the hostellers of the



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Eastern Province?

One correspondent ventured 80% as a 'good' percentage of occupancy for a hotel in this region. By that standard — which may be the fruit of inflated expectation — most of the big hotels here claim to be holding their own. Only two of them admitted to significantly lower percentage occupancy figures. It may be a bellwether of a more stringent future, however, that hotels seem to open quite more modest target figures than 80%.

What form is competition to take? And will it ever approach a cut-throat, daggers-down intensity?

It is easier to answer the first of these questions by an assessment

of what form competition is least likely to take: It was the almost universal opinion of correspondents in this survey that there would be no significant slashing of prices from their present levels. That is not to say, however, that differences do not exist from one hotel to another. What emerges from a cursory inspection of going prices is the impression that at the top of the market — and here lies the seedbed of inter-hotel competition — there is a breakdown into three categories of hotel which might be labeled first class, deluxe, and super-deluxe. A single room in the first of these ratings will cost the commercial traveler somewhere in the range of SR 140-180, 15% service charges are common in this category as in the others. To move from first class to deluxe involves an additional outlay of liquid assets, but how much depends on the establishment chosen; the range, SR 225-285, for a single room encompasses most of the inns in this particular category. To ascend to the sybaritic delights of the super-deluxe will require a financial consideration of the order of SR 325. Double rooms and suites, available at hotels in all three categories, cost more, of course.

The more spectacular figures quoted to this interviewer include sums like SR 1,300 for creature comforts which the mind boggles to contemplate. The Saudi hotel industry is geared to cater not to tourists but to businessmen: This fact explains why prices will be unlikely to decline in response to the growing pressure to attract customers. As one executive expressed it, expense accounts make the itinerant businessman more 'flexible' in his attitude toward hotel costs.

If not by reducing prices, then how will hotels vie with each other in their struggle for that magical seal of public approval that 100% occupancy bestows?

The answer to that question seems clear already. It is: 'By offering unparalleled service'. Telex facilities and a phalanx of telephone lines are all but taken for granted at a hotel of any standing in the area. Twenty-four-hour-a-day coffee bars and laun-

dry services are commonplace. Colour TVs and mini-fridges have become almost as standard equipment in the rooms of deluxe posadas as beds. It is the rare xenodochium that does not boast its own swimming pool. Some come armed to the teeth with bowling alleys, billiard tables, lighted tennis courts, saunas, and massage halls. One hotel thoughtfully supplies each of its guests with two daily newspapers; another provides stenographic assistance for the hard-pressed salesman with letters to dictate.

Hotel restaurants have proliferated, and most of them in the Eastern Province have earned good reputations. The businessman's buffet lunch at the Ramada Inn, served daily, and their Saturday night seafood buffet, priced at SR 60, each have their advocates. Fortnightly barbecues at the Al-Gosaibi and the magnificent buffet lunch at the Damman Hotel are popular occasions. The Sara Restaurant of the Al-Nimran in El-Khobar features Italian cuisine. Lebanese specialties of Al-Nemer's Andalusia Restaurant or the Royal in El-Khobar tempt aficionados of Levantine cuisine. For those who fancy Oriental flavours, there is a Chinese restaurant at the Al-Khaja.

The sheer nuptialness of some of the new hotels in the region is probably the most striking index of expectations which the economic boom of the past decade raised. The new Dhahran International dazzles the eye with marble, then soothes it with lush foliage. Marriott's features a string of lounges are internationally furnished. The Al-Gosaibi is finishing its own extensive refurbishing (see related profile), and the Damman Hotel has launched its own building program which will provide that establishment with a 300-room, 15 story sky-scraper.

What does the future hold? Clearly it holds the sort of competitiveness which would have been unthinkable two years ago. But in their response to the challenge that their establishments pose for one another, hotel executives differ markedly. Four such executives expressed various degrees of alarm at the situation. 'At the moment, there are too many hotels here,' said one executive, and the three most pessimistic respondents in this survey agreed with that assessment. Optimism, on the part of another executive, had subsided in an

attitude which might be described as 'cheerful caution'. It was suggested by one respondent that existing facilities might have to be leased or redeployed in the face of a glut of hotel rooms on the market. Officials of recently opened hotels tended to be more positive about the situation: It was a healthy sign that so many hotels were opening, in the opinion of Mohammed Gambrowi of the Ramada Inn. Competition itself was healthy. It might be the case now that the Eastern Province had more hotel space than it needed, remarked Emmanuel Futinopoulos, Director of Sales at the Marriott Hotel, but the area enjoyed a great potential for development, and he personally believed that business would pick up again.

How would each of the existing hotels cope with mounting competition?

Each of the executives interviewed for this survey stressed what he felt to be the unique advantages which his establishment possessed. Quality service came high on the list of the more expensive hotels. Location was important in the majority of the respondents. One bit of apocrypha cited was the story of a certain public relations officer who carefully calculated the number of traffic lights which impeded progress between his company and each of the major hostellers in the Dhahran, El-Khobar, Damman triangle! Certainly air traffic, the possible re-location of the airport between Dhahran and Jubail, and port movement influence the fate of the various hotels competing for the favour of the peripatetic businessman. The reputation which some of the older establishments have will enable them to retain the patronage of customers on return trips to the province. Chain reputations will undoubtedly help some of the new, big hotels to build up a core clientele. And finally, a more aggressive sales and promotion policy will garner its own rewards for those new-fangled inns which choose to adopt such methods.

Whatever happens, the traveler to the Eastern Province — as well as the resident who wants to benefit from the bounty of restaurants, barber shops, beauty salons, pastry shops, and boutiques which the harvest of hotels has reaped — will have far more to choose from than was the case only a few months ago.

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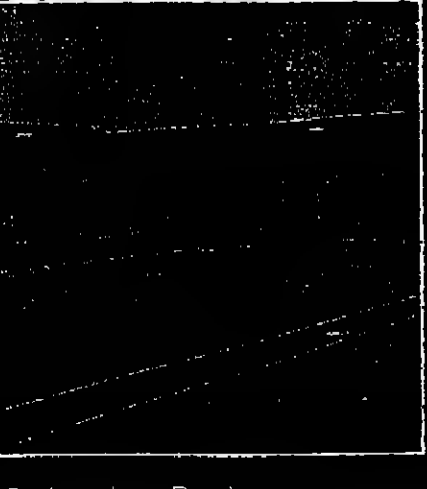
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Marriott : Attractive to businessmen

By Geoff Gardner

The Dhahran Marriott hotel, a 296 room facility situated on a 28 acre site, is set to open in March of this year. Rated as a Four Star hotel and located on the Dhahran Road four kilometers north of Dhahran, the 150 million SR complex is situated near Al Khobar, Dammam and the Dhahran airport. It is designed to be an attractive alternative for the businessman.

Saudi Hotels and Resort Areas Company (SHARACO) own the hotel but Marriott personnel will operate and manage it. SHARACO ownership is forty per cent Saudi government and sixty per cent private stockholders.

Each of the 18-20 square meter regular double units is decorated in an attractive combination of colors with orange dominant. Shag carpeting, drapes and furniture upholstery reflect this color scheme. Pictures of traditional Arabian scenes decorate each room.

Rooms are not the traditional rectangles, but are pentagon-shaped, as the back walls extend from longer parallel side walls into a point, or an arrow shape.

All units are fully air-conditioned with individual con-

trols. Each has a private bath with shower and bidet, a color TV with inhouse movies, a mini-refrigerator, and a direct dial telephone.

All water on the premises is potable "sweet" water. On the premises laundry and dry cleaning and 24 hour room service are available to guest. Free pick-up service to and from Dhahran is another feature the hotel will offer to appeal to the travelling businessman.

"Our aim in the Saudi Kingdom is to create and establish a reputation as the most comfortable and best place for the businessman away from home," Emmanuel Fotinopoulou, director of sales for the Dhahran Marriott, said.

Other services and shops within the hotel include a giftshop, newsstand, hairdressers, medical assistance, secretarial services, safety deposit boxes, currency exchange, telex, and a travel bureau. Recreational facilities are an outdoor swimming pool and two tennis courts. A miniature golf course may be added later.

Plans also call for a 300 person banquet/convention hall, which will be built onto the front of existing structure. Construction will begin in six months and be completed in early 1980.

The hotel itself will house its

guests in the three floors above the ground floor where offices and shops will be located. Approximately 300 employees, around one-half from the Philippines and the rest from twenty other countries, will comprise the staff, according to Kees Meijer, resident manager.

"We hired experience," he said. "Many of them are almost overqualified because in their own countries they were working in higher positions."

Dining facilities include a restaurant and coffee shop. The Al Walima is a 135 seat specialty restaurant with which will feature an American salad bar and international cuisine. It will also have a 40 seat private dining area. The Al Mokha, the coffee shop, will seat 125. In addition, the patio area around the swimming pool will be used as a food service area, adding another 80 seats for snacks and barbeques.

A spacious lobby, with a wide walkway and colorful lounge area, is designed as a comfortable place for guests to stroll and relax, as well as a waiting area. Beverages and pastries will be served in the lounge lobby.

"Arabic coffee will be served free of charge," said David Laughlin, food and beverage director. "It's a traditional Arabic custom

which we want to follow."

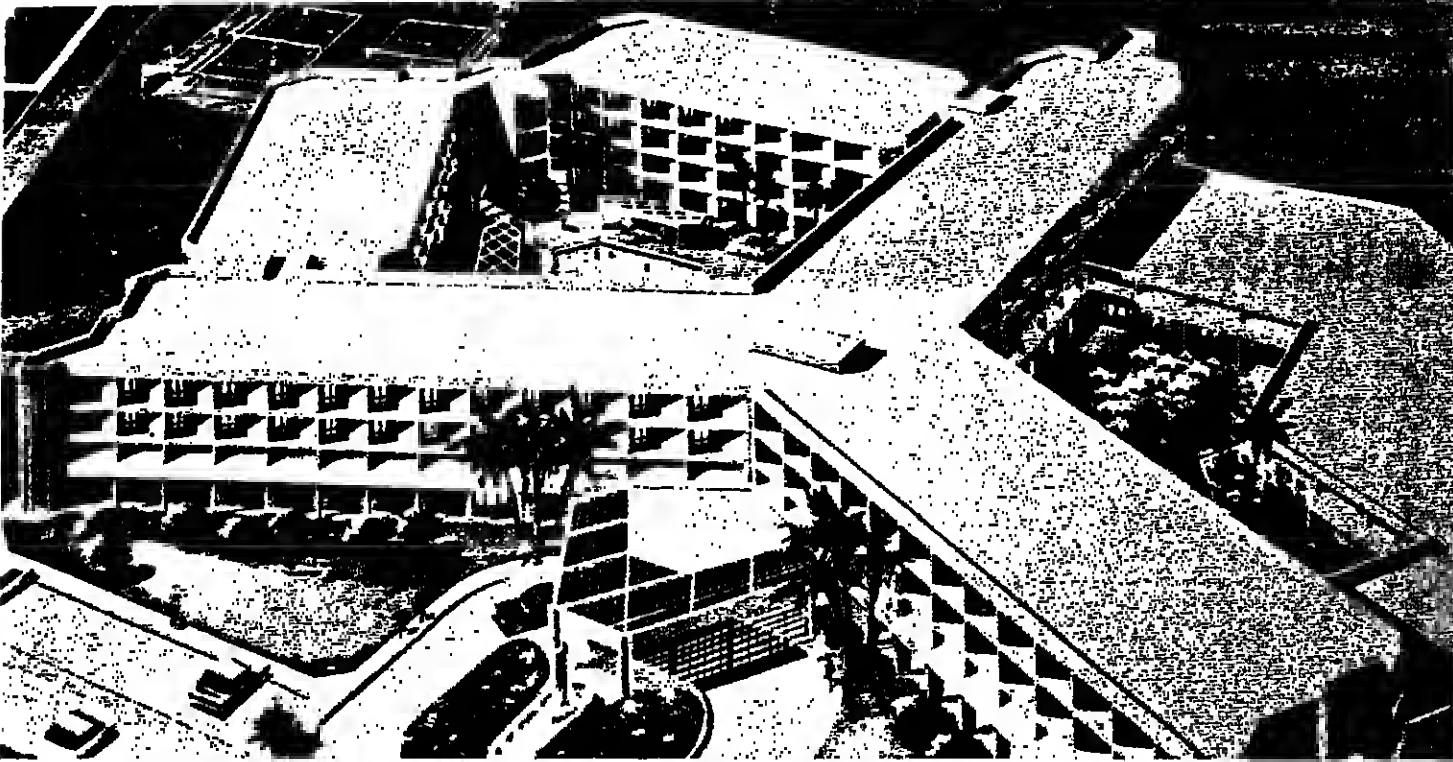
Management of the Dhahran Marriott is experienced and international. Fotinopoulou, from Greece, has 20 years experience in the hotel business; Meijer, from Holland, has 25 years; Laughlin, an American, has 21 years. General Manager Hans Maissen, who is Swiss, recently returned from New York where arrangements were completed which will give the hotel the contract to lodge Pan American flight crews.

Beck Arabia, who built the Dhahran Marriott, began construction 18 months ago. Housing for the hotel staff and a sewage plant have also been constructed.

The hotel division of the Marriott corporation is one of 18 divisions. Marriott expects to have 80 hotels by 1980 and to increase its current 1.45 billion dollars in sales to 2 billion in 1980.

Marriott already manages a 288 unit hotel in Riyadh and will open another there in 1980. A fourth will be ready for business in Jeddah in 1981.

Rates start at 275 SR for one person in a double room at the Dhahran Marriott, subject to a 15 per cent service charge. The hotel will be open for business March 14. The official opening is April 1, 1979.



Marriott Hotel in Dhahran

SAUDI HOTELS AND RESORTS AREAS CO. ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF THE

Marriott Khurais Hotel Riyadh

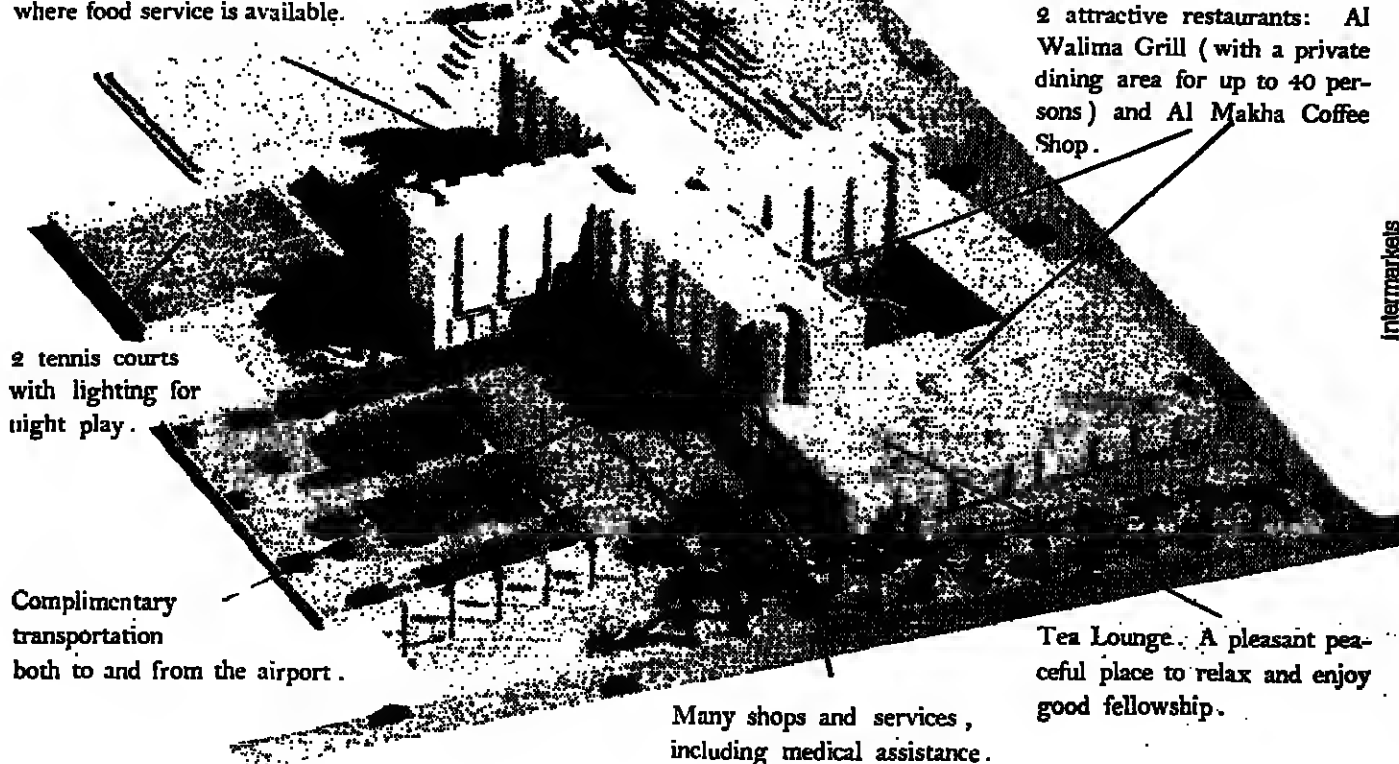
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More information: The Marriott Khurais is operated by the Marriot Corporation for the Saudi Hotels and Resort Areas Company.
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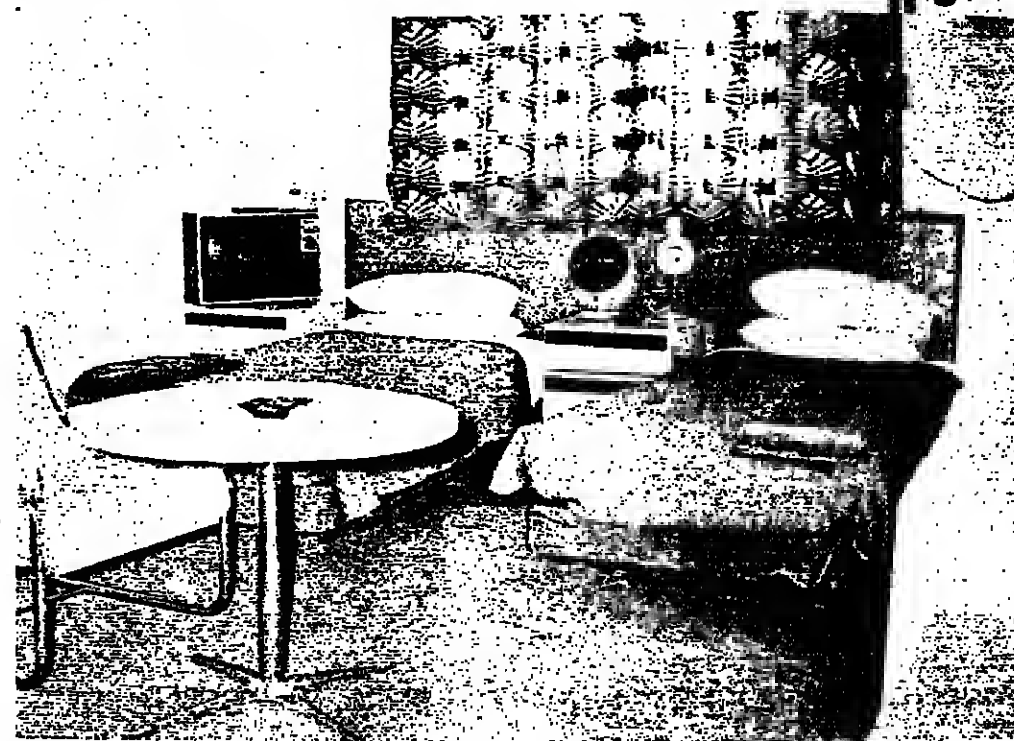
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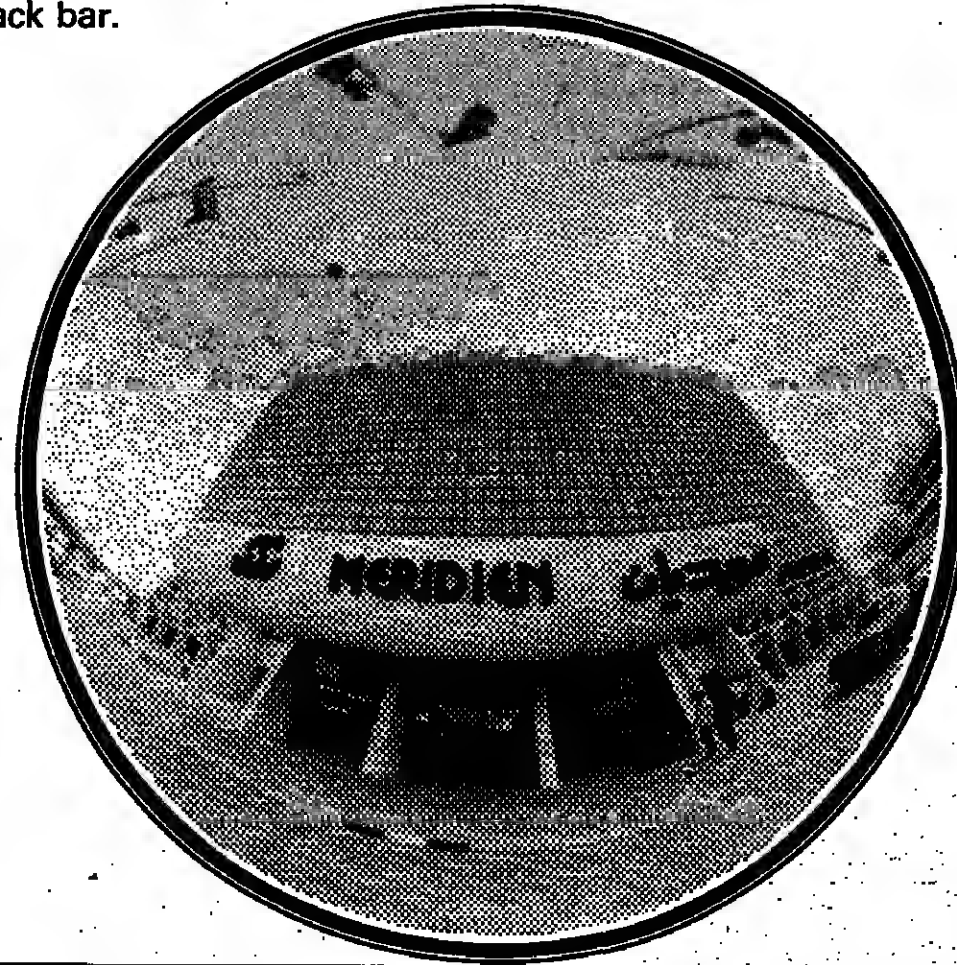


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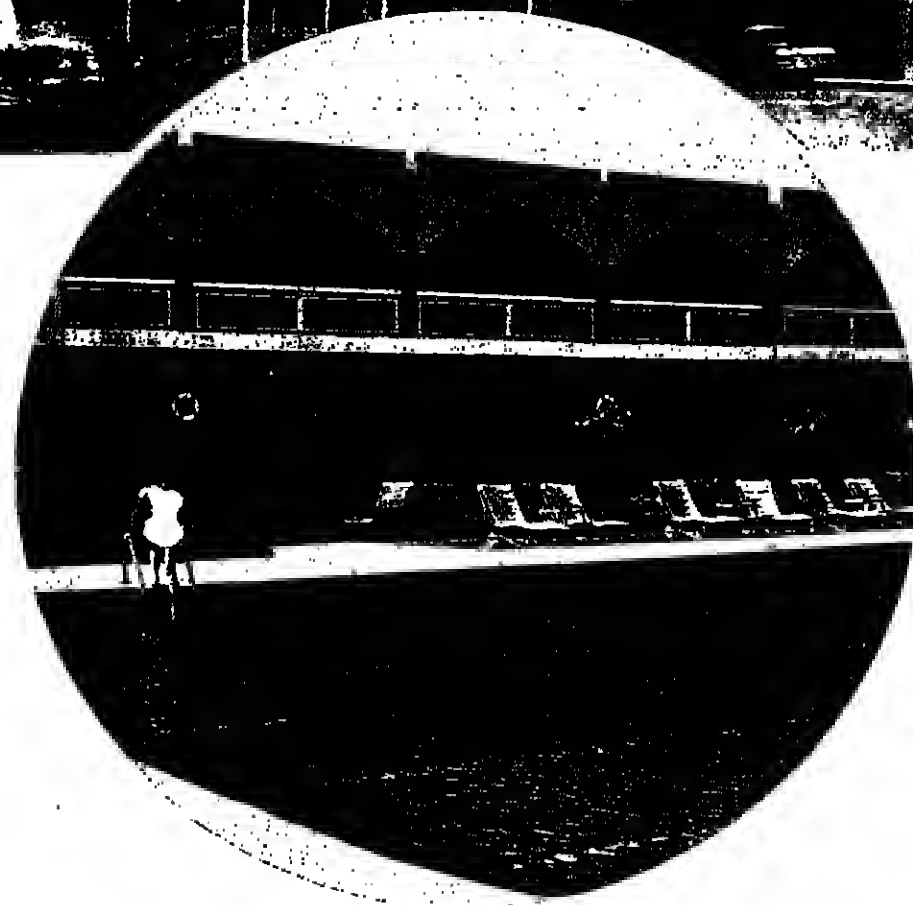


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By Farouk Luqman

When the Meridien Hotel opened in June last year it easily became the finest in Jeddah, one of the top three or four hotels in Saudi Arabia. "And you can easily say, one of the best in the world," said its general manager Mike Najm, an American-Lebanese who has been in hotel business since leaving college in the U.S.

The Meridien, which cost SR 250 million to build and furnish was first started as a speculation ten years ago. But it was left unfinished for several years until a new company was found to build it. The company is a Saudi-Kuwait joint venture on a 45-50 per cent basis.

The new luxury hotel, near the Mecca Road flyover in Jeddah, is owned by Saudi Arabian Hotels Corp.

Managed by the Meridien Hotel

chain, the Hotel Meridien Jeddah is the first hotel in the Kingdom undertaken by the Saudi-Kuwait joint venture firm.

Part of the Air France hotel chain, the Jeddah Meridien is the 20th Meridien worldwide. Guests make reservations for a room at the Jeddah hotel through any of the other Meridiens or through Air France. Likewise, reservations for any of the other 19 Meridien hotels may be made in Jeddah.

All rooms are equipped with three-channel videotape players for movies, and there is a ballroom large enough to accommodate meetings for 600 persons. Six other function rooms can handle meetings of 20 to 150 persons.

The hotel's meeting room facilities include sophisticated video and soundment, Najm said. Guest rooms are on the top ten floors, with the royal and diploma-

tic suites on the top floor. The restaurants, ballroom, boutiques, swimming pool and other public areas are on the first two floors.

The 12-storey hotel has four elevators, and an interior decor reflecting an Arabic influence, with arches and bright colored tiles.

Guest rooms are spacious, rooms on the Mecca Road are more like suites, with a room divider between the beds and sitting room area. Rooms on the side facing the airport do not have this divided area. All rooms are equipped with a refrigerator/ice chest.

Among the 400 guest rooms are 34 rooms along the first floor swimming pool, terrace area.

The royal suite has three bed-

rooms, library, dining room, two living rooms, kitchenette and two bathrooms. The diplomatic suite has two bedrooms, two bathrooms, and dining room, living room, library and kitchenette.

Assisting Najm in the running of the hotel is executive staff of about 20 professionals. Plans also will call for the training of Saudis at the executive level.

Najm says that a five-star hotel should have certain qualities that mark them above average hotels: The Meridien has them all: A swimming pool, Different restaurants, Sports facilities; Banqueting facilities; Qualitatively better rooms, furniture and decor; Telephones and music-five channels—, television and video programs. Four kitchens; 24 hour service; and Laundry service.

But the hotel is not without its share of nerve-racking problems. While there are no restrictions on the imports of anything here except alcoholic beverages, some problems are unique to this country. One of them is the shortage of manpower required to serve such a big and luxurious hotel. Almost every member of the 400 staff has had to be hired abroad and a residence permit obtained for him. If one quits or is fired, he has to be replaced also from abroad. This wastes time and costs money. Inevitably, the staff have to be hired in different countries.

The other problem is obtaining materials and goods, since most spare parts have to be imported. It took weeks at one time to replace a faulty laundry machine part. The hotel had to go on laundering clothes by hand until the tiny part was received.

Then there is the problem of water. Although this is improving, the hotel has to buy enormous

quantities every day to replenish its government-supplied stocks. On most days the Meridien has to spend over SR 2,000 a day to keep its underground water tanks adequately supplied.

Although the hotel was given 20 telephone lines, Najm says this is not enough. Hotels of this size should have at least 40 lines.

The hotel is always full to capac-

ity. Ninety six per cent of the rooms were occupied during the hotel's first few months and income has been good although most of it has to be paid out to creditors.

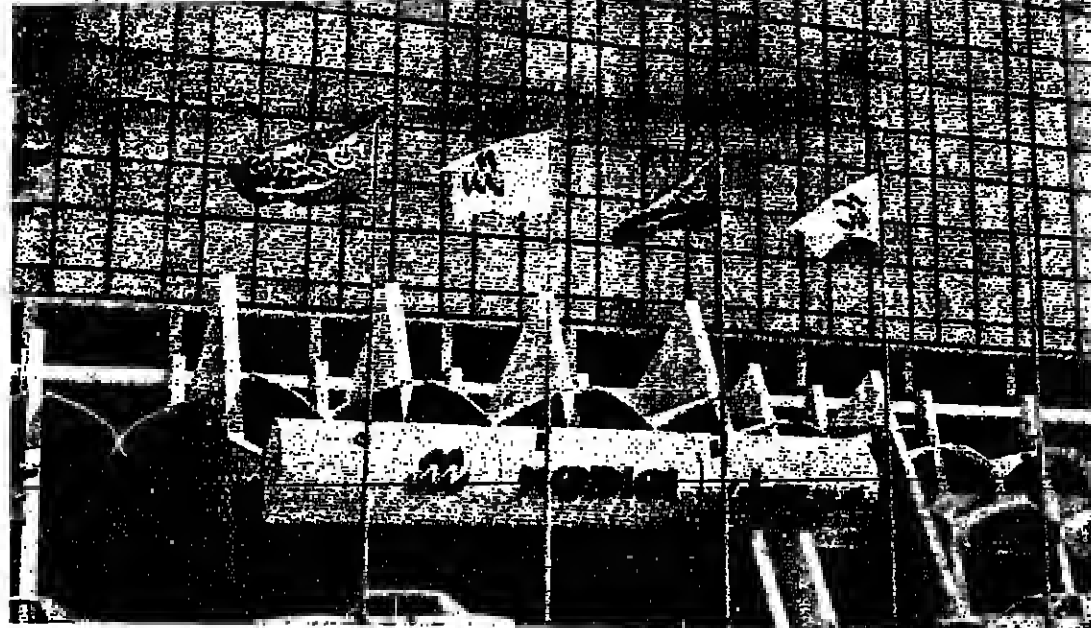
Najm said the most important job of a hotel management team is to maintain the quality of the service and keep the hotel clean and

shining. "It is service that distinguishes one hotel from the other," he said. And it is service that makes a good hotel great, he added.

Speaking about the future, Najm said the management is planning a great shopping center at the hotel which in some ways will resemble that of the London Hilton. It will be enclosed with an external entrance so that shoppers will not have to enter the hotel if they do not want to.

Apart from feeding the occupants of 400 rooms and suites every day, the hotel caters to outsiders on a large scale provided it is given sufficient notice—normally two weeks for big bashes. The same applies to its banqueting hall which is becoming increasingly popular with those getting married if they have the kind of money it takes to hire the hotel services.

Marriage banquets cost anywhere between SR 25,000 to SR 150,000 per party.



Meridien from outside and inside



Mike Najm, General Manager of As-Salam Meridien.



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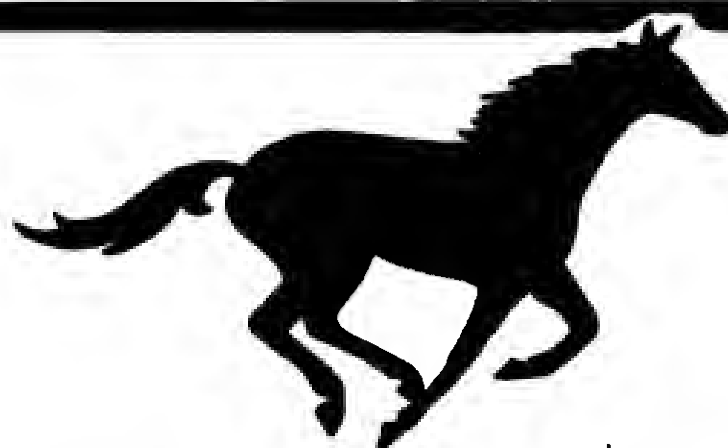
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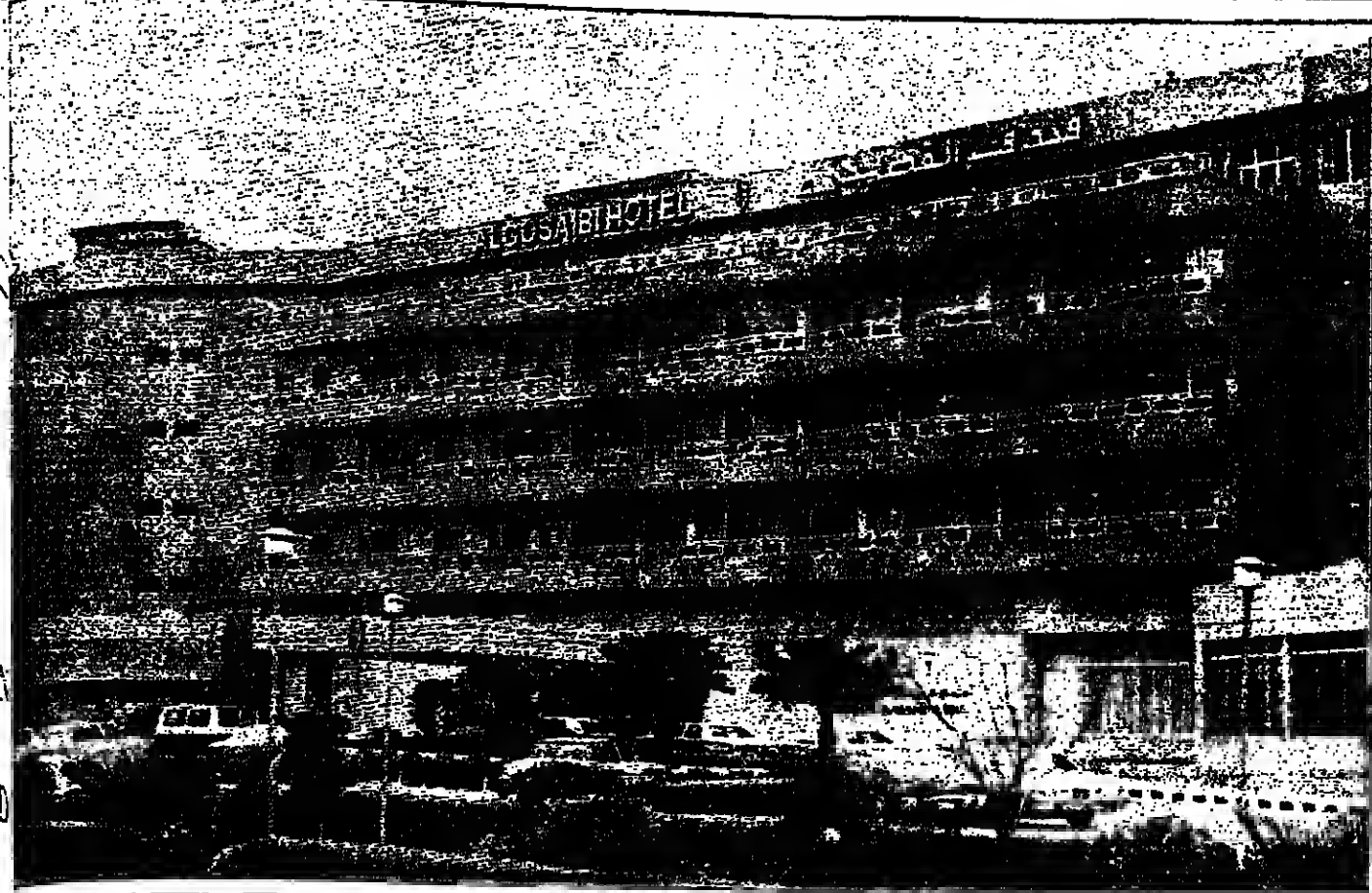
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Red Sea Palace plans expansion

By John Close

The Red Sea Palace is one of the grand old ladies of Jeddah's hotels. It's view of the sea is now somewhat obscured by the new sea road and the lagoon flyover but it still has its view of the port and its central location near the heart of the city.

Built in 1958, it is of the same vintage as the other doyenne of Jeddah hotels, the Kandara Palace, and is an institution among visitors to the kingdom.

Queen Ifat, wife of the late King Faisal, is the owner of the Red Sea Palace.

The general manager of the hotel, Hassan Hosny M. Adam came originally from Alexandria and has been at the Red Sea Palace since its earliest days.

The Red Sea Palace has been officially closed since March 1 for

an extensive renovation plan. The old lady is undergoing an expensive and thorough face-lift.

"With Jeddah having more and more hotels practically every week, we can't afford to stand still," Adam says. "The old days of almost no competition are over forever."

The hotel now has 103 rooms, all of which are air-conditioned with bathrooms and telephones. Its indoor restaurant can seat just over three hundred people and its outdoor cafe by the swimming pool another fifty. A room costs approximately SR200 per night.

After the renovation and additions, the Red Sea Palace will have two hundred rooms. The manager says the investment has reached about SR100 million and he is confident that it is both a necessary and profitable move.

Gaith Pharaon's Redec was awarded the management con-

tract and the company has subcontracted the interior design work to an American firm out of Mobil, Alabama.

The building is almost empty now, as the day rapidly approaches when renovation work will begin in earnest. A constant stream of laborers pours down the stairs of the hotel. Air conditioners, couches, chairs, rugs, lamps and beds are being uprooted after over twenty years and even the main lounges are denuded and eerily quiet.

"It's really quite strange to have the place not full of people as it usually is," the manager's principal assistant says.

Adam says the hotel usually operates with about 90 per cent occupancy. "Of course the high season in Jeddah is the Hajj when we have over 100 per cent of the rooms full. If you see what I mean,

we have much more than two to a room during that time," his assistant asserts.

The hotel sits on 7,500 square meters. Adam says that after the renovation the Red Sea Palace will have a sauna, tennis courts, a new swimming pool. It will also have its own fleet of buses and taxis and plans to provide transportation to and from the airport.

"One of our biggest advantages is our location," Adam says. The hotel is just around the corner from the Foreign Ministry and quite close to the Queen's Building and the heart of Jeddah's suq.

The Red Sea Palace also plans to expand its harbor shop, one of its most popular facilities over the past few years. For the period of renovation, the hotel has opened a temporary harbor shop near Jeddah Towers on Crown Prince Fahd Street.



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Algosaibi : Dean of Eastern Province

The Algosaibi Hotel is the oldest of the top flight hotels in the Eastern Province. In opening its doors to the public in July, 1973, it was metaphorically opening a new era in the hotel industry of the region.

The present management of the hotel — which is owned by Ahmad Hamad Algosaibi and his brothers — faces the future with quiet confidence. Unlike some of their conferees in the business, they voice a degree of optimism about the coming years. The Eastern Province is likely to need all the hotel rooms which are presently available, says David Stephenson, in view of the development which lies ahead.

Stephenson, who was born in Yorkshire, England, served in the 1st and 2nd Battalions Scots Guards in Britain and the Near East. Before coming to Saudi Arabia, he worked for four years as general manager at a number of hotels in Malta. His experience in this part of the world includes a stint with the Delmon International in Bahrain. As a student, he trained at the George V in Paris. Assisting him in the management of the hotel are two competent hoteliers: Tim Craig, who worked both at the Savoy and at Claridge's in London, and Joe Murphy, food and beverages manager, who hails from Ireland. This team is just finishing a top-to-bottom renovation of the Algosaibi which will equip it to compete with the plethora of hotels which has sprung up in the Eastern Province over the past year.

The impression with which one leaves the hotel after a casual inspection is one of solid structure, stocked with all that is required for a guest's comfort. The whole building has been elegantly decorated by a New York firm of interior designers by the name of Stylist/Durrell.

The hotel strives for self-sufficiency in certain fundamental respects. It possesses its own sweet water supply and a back-up system for generating electricity, should the publicly supplied current falter.

'The lights never go out at the Algosaibi,' says David Stephenson with a subdued but understandable pride.

The hotel's aim, Tim explains, is to provide its business guests with what they need to carry on efficiently and comfortably while they reside at the hotel.

The kitchen of the Algosaibi is a labyrinth of immaculate counters, chopping boards, and machinery where the staff, under the direction of Chef Morcy, prepare an unending supply of victuals for the hotel's guests. Algosaibi takes its own bread and croissants. It buys fresh fruit and vegetables from local purveyors, and imports prime beef from America. Other meat is flown in from the U.K., Australia, and New Zealand. Stephenson explained how it took two weeks to select a satisfactory blend of coffees from Bayouni Stores to concoct the excellent brew which is served at the hotel today. Another of Stephenson's innovations was to post photographs of the hotel's various dishes on its kitchen's bulletin board to achieve a visual standard and

appeal which enhances the food's natural flavor.

The lunch buffet served on a daily basis entails a lavish display of hors d'oeuvres, cold meats, sauces, gargantuan prawns, and sweets. Chef Morcy, trained in Arab and French cuisines, seems particularly adept at fish. His baked whiting in shrimp sauce is a memorable culinary treat. Meals at the Algosaibi are expedited by waiters whose deference toward the guest is neatly balanced by their friendliness.

Most of the extensive renovation which the Algosaibi undertook has been completed, but its new rooftop restaurant — the Lina Room — has not yet opened. It is scheduled to do so in about one month. A week before that, the swimming pool, freshly equip-

ped with a new filtration plant, is to be inaugurated. The new decor, which runs the gamut from Canadian leather to Venetian chandeliers, is uniformly tasteful. Like other hotels of its class in the Eastern Province, the Algosaibi furnishes each of its 335 rooms and suites with a colour TV and a mini-fridge. Although this sprucing-up will make the Algosaibi more competitive in a burgeoning field of younger and equally vigorous hotels, it was not undertaken expressly for that purpose. As Craig points out, incessant use of the hotel's facilities over a period of five years had made renovation imperative.

Matters would have been put to rights even if the Algosaibi had remained the only top-drawer

hotel in the area.

Catering is one activity into which the hotel has ventured: The Algosaibi will cater weddings of up to 1,000 guests. Sheep feasts can be arranged, even at short order. With six conference rooms and an assortment of audio-visual equipment, the establishment is probably as well endowed as any other hotel in the Dhahran area to host major gatherings. Only last week KLM sponsored a 7-day seminar of its area managers at the Algosaibi. A month ago, IBM did the same. During Queen Elizabeth's visit to the Eastern Province last month, the Algosaibi was used as a press centre for the journalists covering the event. A banquet for 400 is to be held here soon for the medical conference at King Faisal University.



International prominent on a corner

By Timothy Sisley

The International Hotel stands prominently on a corner of the roundabout outside the Foreign Ministry in Jeddah. A tall thin building, its 72 rooms are apparently always full.

It tends to be patronized by businessmen from all over the world, staying for anything between a week and a month. A few families come, too, and not a few Saudis.

The International was founded 10 years ago. It is owned by Abdullah Bakhs, and managed by a Syrian, Muhammad Nouri. New to the International, Nouri went there two months ago from Jeddah's Riyadh Hotel.

Muhammad Adel, the Egyptian reception manager, says that it makes no odds to the hotel's attractiveness its being comparatively far from the airport. It is still downtown, at the hub of activity, and other important areas are within easy reach.

The hotel has 16 single rooms, which rent for SR80 a night, 48 doubles which cost SR100 for one person a night and SR120 for two, and eight suites. The suites go for SR200 for one with a large drawing room and SR160 for one with a small drawing room.

Each room has a telephone and air conditioning, as well as built-in cupboards and bathroom attached. There is a television in a sitting room on each floor where refreshments are served.

There is only one general sitting room, which doubles as a hall in the entrance to the hotel. The extra touch of tissues being provided guests there lends some weight to Adel's assertion that the hotel offers a service that is a major factor in guests coming for a second stay.

The hotel has a large and airy dining room, that with a drawing room occupies the entire top floor. Although a building cuts off much of the view of the sea, there are spectacular views of Jeddah, looking towards and beyond the Foreign Ministry.

The restaurant can sit 60,



looked after by six staff and a head waiter. A chef and an assistant chef provide breakfast, lunch and dinner. A continental breakfast costs SR13, lunch on the set menu SR35 and dinner SR37. The waiters are extremely helpful and pleasant.



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Dhahran International promises luxury

Located on the grounds of the Dhahran International Airport, a SR61 million project of Hussein M. Alharthy's National Development Company, has been completed, and official opening is due shortly.

During its construction, designers promised that the hotel would be the most luxurious in the Kingdom.

The exterior of the hotel will surely become a landmark for those entering the Dhahran airport either by road or by air. The

glistening blue and marble facade uses the ancient Arab arch in a modern interpretation, and the size and scope of the building alone cannot escape notice.

Open spaces and greenery set the tone of the lush lobby which features also a comfortable sitting area with a trickling pool and rock garden. A double storied mezzanine overlooks the lobby giving a very spacious appearance. At the rear of the lobby is a coffee shop. Furnished in lime colors and bamboo, this airy and bright

atmosphere should provide a pleasant environment to the casual diner.

The main dining area which is located on the first mezzanine, directly above the coffee shop, is for anything but casual dining. Elegance reigns in this luxuriously furnished restaurant.

The theme of elegance will be carried through in the 40 shops that are due to open at the hotel.

"We envision establishments of the calibre of Tiffany's, high fashion

salons, jewelry, and perfume shops," states Norman Anderson, the general manager. A travel agent and a newstand have already leased space as have beauty salons for both men and women which will be operated by European stylists.

The hotel provides 200 rooms which include Royal suites. The price of accommodation ranges from SR300 to SR 1,100 per night. All rooms are comfortably and tastefully furnished, but

Chinese carpets grace the suites which, although they vary in size, are uniform in style and luxury.

Several banqueting halls are available, including an area which can be partitioned into smaller meeting rooms accommodating up to 50 persons or separated into a men's and women's banquet hall. The banquet area on the second mezzanine could easily seat 1,000 persons.

Apart from being plushly furnished the Dhahran International

Hotel is equipped with up-to-date equipment, including some which will probably not come into full use until the future such as direct distance dialing and a full-range video taping system.

A communications Center where international calls can be booked and telexes and cables sent is being planned by government officials.

Massive kitchen facilities have been incorporated in hopes of

providing an airline catering service from the premises.

Built under the auspices of NADCO, the marble which was used on the buildings exterior, is from NADCO's own quarry near Yanbu and was cut and polished at their factory in Jeddah. The Taif escarpment provided the gray granite which decorates the lobby.

The main thrust of the hotel will be to provide a relaxing and efficient atmosphere for the many business men who are traveling into the Kingdom. The hotel is

equipped with a portable paging system which guests can keep on their person so as to be available for important communications at any time. Aside from the large "Royal" suites, smaller suites have been included as a convenience to businessmen.

The overall atmosphere seems to be detached and businesslike which may be attractive to the businessman visitor; it is quite evident that the hotel is not going to cater to a wide-range clientele.

Taj Palace: Comfortable and friendly

Jeddah's Taj Palace Hotel is modest. One might walk past it down Airport Road without noticing the glass double door, but it seems comfortable and friendly, a pleasant change from the large and impersonal hotels better known around the town.

And the manager, Adel Kandil, has a distinction that those who find hotels and all they represent romantic will savor: an Egyptian, he began his career in the old Shepherd's in Cairo, the virtual center of Cairo society in the days of King Farouk.

Kandil came to Jeddah to take over the Taj Palace three years ago. He had previously been assistant manager at the Intercontinental in Cairo.

The Taj Palace has 15 single rooms, 18 double and one suite. They cost SR188 a night for a single, SR225 for a double and SR300 for the suite. Each room has a bathroom attached, a small area with armchairs, a telephone, air conditioning, a small refrigerator and a television. It is planned that video facilities will be installed in the future. The rooms are more compact than spacious, but complete with a small desk and chair, they seem to have everything necessary for not excessive comfort. There is 24-hours room service, provided by a staff of some 70 employees.

An approximate 100 per cent occupancy rate, overwhelmingly of businessmen from the four corners of the earth who stay for a

month each on average, is put down by Kandil to the efforts of himself and his staff to make the guest feel that work is taken out of his hands: there are nice touches like fetching airline tickets or making sure telexes are sent immediately.

It must have been a blow to the hotel when the close and convenient airport terminal on Airport road was closed and the new terminal on Crown Prince Fahd Street opened, but Kandil says that in the event it has made no difference to the people who come to stay.

There are banqueting facilities, and a dining room that sits 80 is open to residents and non-residents alike for breakfast, lunch and dinner. At SR15, a continental

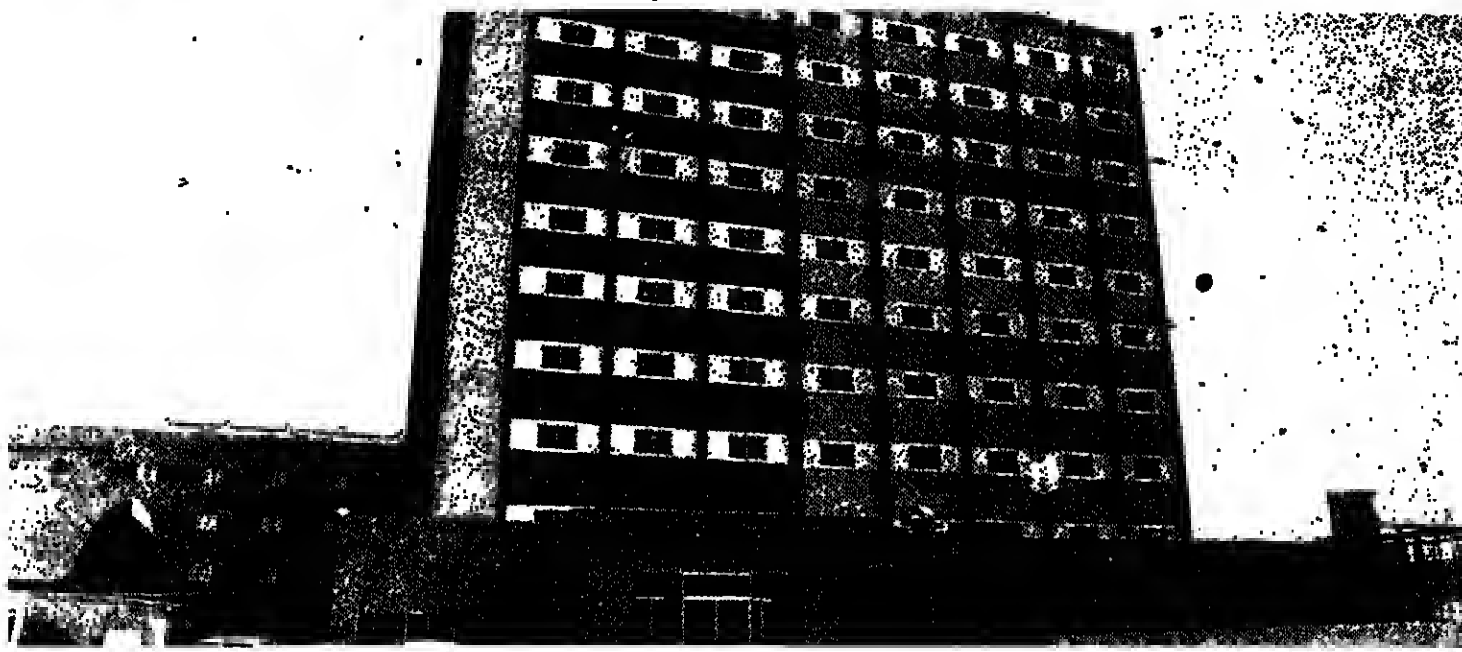
breakfast is offered. Lunch, on the set menu at SR30, is two courses, pudding and coffee. Dinner, for SR35, is soup, two courses, pudding, cheese or fruit and coffee — more than reasonable value in expensive Jeddah.

There is one sitting room downstairs, which can only be described as cosy. Like the rest of the hotel, the decorations and furniture might not appeal to all tastes, but its restrained cry of comfort has a homely charm. The walls are lined with Korean chests, and potted plants provide a deal of privacy to anyone sitting down.

The Taj Palace was started three years ago by Sheikh Assad Hejazi. Although there is no hotel shop, newspapers are brought in every day. (T.S.)



Taj Palace Hotel



Kaki Hotel

Kaki boasts of food service

By a Staff Reporter

In its 15 months of existence, the Kaki Hotel claims that it has had a constant 100 per cent occupancy rate. Its neon sign prominent above Jeddah's Crown Prince Fahd Street, it is one of the town's landmarks.

The manager, Joseph Otayek, has been in Jeddah for eight months. A Lebanese, he was before then assistant manager of the famous Vendome Hotel in Beirut. His staff is mostly Lebanese too, some of them having come with Otayek from the Vendome to make up a complement of 200 or so.

The hotel has 216 bedrooms, all of them with two beds. For one person the Kaki charges SR219 a

night, for two SR263. A service charge of 15 per cent is added to each bill. Each room has a videotape machine, refrigerator and telephone. There is a swimming pool for the guests, and telex facilities. They are usually all foreigners, and overwhelmingly businessmen, staying for five or six days on average. Why do they choose the Kaki? Otayek has few doubts: "Because we have the best service and the best food."

Many members of the public might agree, on the food at least. The hotel runs an outside catering service that is well spoken of around Jeddah, specializing in Lebanese food. There are usually 400 persons in the hotel for lunch and dinner. Although the propor-

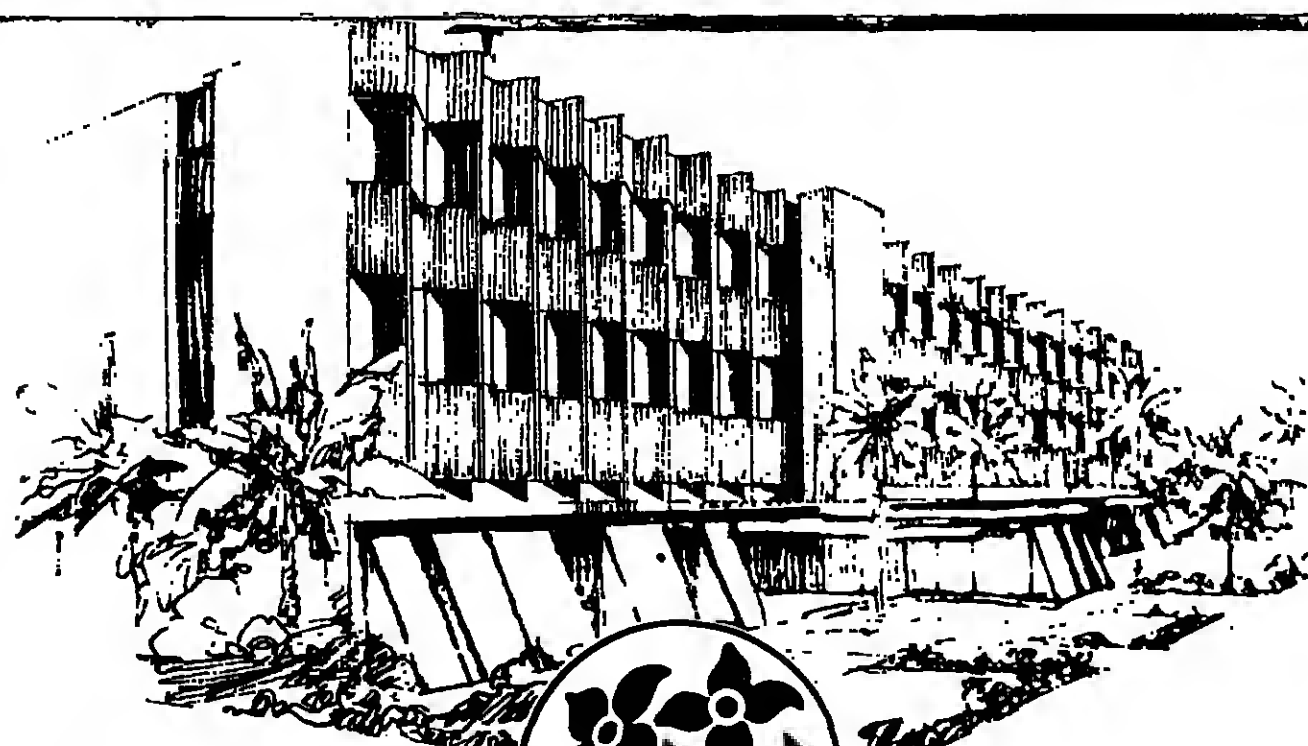
tion of residents to non-residents eating cannot be accurately judged, a good percentage of those eating at the hotel must be those not staying there.

There is an a la carte menu, but a three-course lunch on these menu costs SR55 and dinner SR62. A continental breakfast costs SR15, and what is described as an American breakfast — one can have a choice of eggs — SR21.

Sheikh Ahmad Kaki, the owner, is building an extension in front of the Kaki. He founded the hotel in November 1977, and this year may possibly see efforts at upgrading the service offered to customers in improvement to the rooms, such as putting in new wallpaper, carpets and furniture.

The atmosphere of the hotel is quiet and cool after the heat and noise of the street. The hall is relaxed in dark but not gloomy browns and greys, and the staff at the reception desk are formally dressed. The same colors continue through the coffee lounge and the dining room, where pillars give some illusion of privacy to the client.

The shop in the entrance hall sells not only the usual cigarettes and magazines, but also lighters and radios. It is probably worth noting that the cashier offers to exchange money at rates which, while more expensive than those in banks, are better than many to be had in Jeddah's other major hotels.



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Jeddah Airport Hotel popular spot

By John Close

Although the Jeddah Airport Hotel is of the younger generation of the city's hotels, it is already being the quails of middle age. Two years ago there was almost no competition, hotel manager H. Bargawi says. "Now we have a look out."

The twin towers of the as-yet-unfinished Sheraton Hotel are right across the street from the Jeddah Airport Hotel, so close they can cast a shadow on the smaller inn, and within walking distance are the Al Attas, the Jeddah Palace and the new Kaki Hotel.

Another problem that worries hotel's manager is the fact that Jeddah will eventually have a new airport, miles away from what has been, since its opening in 1971, the airport hotel. The hotel is much further from the airport building than it has

Nevertheless, the manager is sanguine, and feels that there always be a market for the catering to those who need moderately priced room in Jeddah.

Of course our rooms are full during the Hajj, and at times of the year we will



Jeddah Airport Hotel

serve people who don't like the way the cost of living is going up around the world."

The lobby of the hotel is often patronized by people escaping from the hot street. There is a 24-hour coffee shop so it is a popular night spot in Jeddah, according

to the head waiter of the small cafe.

The lobby is designed as a sunken living room. It is done in bright reds, greens and vivid yellows; a pleasing contrast to the more muted colors of the city, the manager explains.

The cafe, at opposite ends of the lounge from the dining room, overlooks the sunken lobby.

The hotel boasts a staff of between fifty and sixty waiters, cooks, room attendants and administrative workers. The manager says the number of employees is relatively constant. Most of his staff has been with him since the hotel opened in 1971.

Jeddah Airport Hotel, as its name implies, has catered to transit passengers and visiting businessmen. To help its guests, the manager has recently set up a small travel bureau, which handles tickets and reservations, rental car service and occasionally transportation to and from the airport.

The manager has also organized a small store which specializes in those items a traveler will most often need: toilet articles, such as tooth brushes and shaving cream, as well as newspapers and magazines, cigars and cigarettes and cassette tapes.

There are fifty-one rooms and eighteen suites at the Jeddah Airport Hotel. A single room costs SR130 a night, and a double room is priced at SR170.

The hotel is owned by Sheikh Hassan Baghattar, who is based in Riyadh.

Attas changing from 'A to Z'

By Farouk Laqman

When Sayed Hussein Al-Attas went into the hotel industry in Saudi Arabia he opened a five-star hotel in Bah Sharif then the 26 years ago. He still owns the Attas hotel in the same spot as he also owns and operates her major structures. Attas is assisted by his son Hani, a graduate in business administration in North Carolina who grew up in the hotel business since his childhood. He is in charge too of reforming the present Attas hotel in Jeddah from a four-star hotel to a full-fledged five-star hotel which has practically everything.

Attas Jeddah was built 16 years ago and for many years was one of the leading hotels in the country. It is almost always full. With a crop of super deluxe hotels coming up all over the country, Attas is changing into the top category at enormous expense. "We are going to change it from A



Hani Attas, general manager of the family's hotel chain.

to Z," Hani said. It will have a new look, furnishing facade, plumbing, electricity etc. The two buildings of Attas hotel will have a unified lobby, elevated swimming pool, and a hazaar of 11 shops. These changes alone will cost nearly SR8 million. In future the structures will be pulled down to make way for Attas Center, a 30-storey tower including a combination of hotel and apartments. But for the immediate future the owners are building a 400-room

five-star hotel with a conference room on Medina Road, south of the headquarters of Datsun.

It will be 14 storeys high on an area of 20,000 square meters. For this project, they received a loan of SR50 million from the government fund for the hotel industry. The overall cost will be in the region of SR250 million.

Hani said luxury hotels today cost between SR225,000 to SR350,000 per room on a turnkey basis, but the rate of occupancy of hotels in Saudi Arabia makes it worthwhile to invest such huge sums of money in the industry.

Besides, Attas has a beautiful hotel on Ohhor Beach, 40 kilometers north of Jeddah. It has 100 rooms ranging in price from SR219 to SR264 per day. There are also special rates for groups, travel agencies and companies wishing to hire rooms on a yearly basis. The rooms are equipped with private baths, video taped programs, and telephones. There is a swimming pool, a conference room, a restaurant and round the

clock service.

According to Hani the main problem facing the hotel industry is the lack of qualified personnel. "Ten years ago my father proposed setting up a hotel school in Saudi Arabia to be sponsored by hotel owners. But the proposal fell through and we still suffer from a continuous shortage of good staff," he said. He has recently sent out a manager to Manila, Philippines, to hire hotel personnel for his establishment.

Perhaps it is low pay and poor conditions of service that are putting off the right people from serving in hotels. But Hani said that they are paid and treated well. The pay scale fluctuates with demand, degree and qualifications. But on the whole, salaries are quite competitive with those of other professions.

Attas hotels are proud of the fact their enterprises are wholly managed by Saudis. They hire foreign personnel for a variety of jobs but the top managerial rank remains in Saudi hands.



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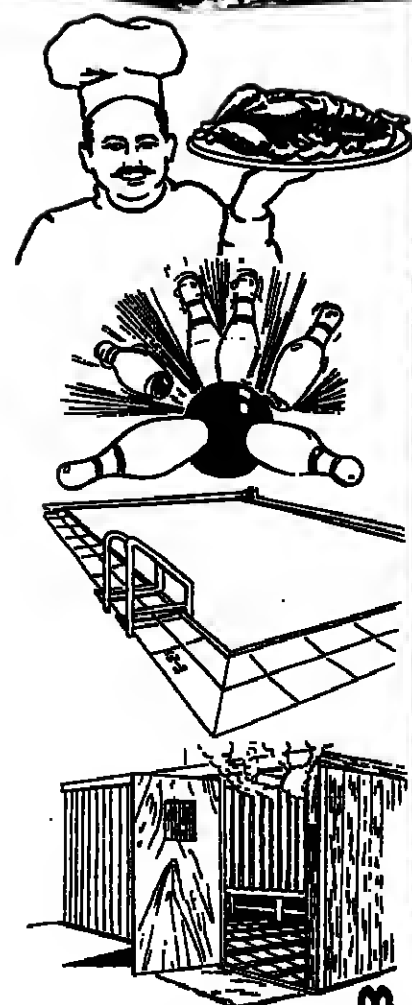
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